



**SADDLEBRED SOCIETY OF SA
SAALPERDGENOOTSAP VAN SA**

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**Saddlebred horse Association "Doping" Committee Meeting -
5th February 2024**

Please see below a summarised version of the minutes of the doping committee meeting held on the 5th of February. I have decided to include this to clarify decisions taken by the committee and to help trainers, and owners to better understand the intricacies of dope testing and the rationale behind the committees' decisions.

Please note that this is a work in progress and therefore additions and deletions to this committees' decisions may be affected in the future. It is however also important to take note that this is the final decision that the committee has taken and will not be amended in anyway up until the end of SA Nationals in Bloemfontein.

Attendance list

- Dr Ockert Botha
- Dr George Aldrich
- Dr Schalk de Kock
- Mrs Koekie de Villiers
- Mrs Sumeri Botha
- Mr Ted Groenewald

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Dr George Aldrich (President); Mrs Koekie de Villiers (Vice-President); Mr. Dries Moolman (Treasurer)

The Use of Substances

Painkillers and Anti-inflammatory Medicines

Steroidal medicines – **Cortisone**, Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs - **Meloxicam and Firocoxib**, Analgesics - **Paracetamol**

These substances are chemical painkillers and anti-inflammatory medicines. The use of these medicines cannot be condoned and allowed as they can cause harm to horses by masking the pain reflex that prevents further damage during competitive exercise.

Due to the above these remain on the prohibited list with the exception of Aspirin, Salicylic Acid and its other metabolites.

Withdrawal periods as established by the FEI must be strictly adhered to. It remains the responsibility of the owner, trainer to specifically inquire and verify these withdrawal periods from their attending veterinarian. It is strongly recommended the owners, and or trainers receive instructions regarding the withdrawal period in writing or via electronic messaging to prevent misunderstandings if and where a positive dope test should arise. It is furthermore important to realise that these withdrawal periods are variable amongst individual horses and therefore it is recommended that the withdrawal periods be extended by at least 25-30%.

Cortisone eye drops

The use of cortisone containing eye drops are not permissible. If it is the opinion of the attending veterinarian that a horse is in need of cortisone eye drops during the show period it may be prescribed by the attending veterinarian. It must then be used strictly according to his/her dosage instructions and in this case, it is extremely important for the veterinarian to specifically specify the reason for treatment. If cortisone eye drops are used therapeutically and according to veterinary instructions the blood levels should be extremely low and in these cases the attending veterinary report will be taken into account.

Vitamins, Minerals and Trace Elements

Vitamin B complex including Vit B12 and Cobalt and other injectable Vit B12 combinations such as Phosamine Catasol and Biosol have been removed from the prohibited substance list and is thus permissible. The use of Arsenic will be monitored and currently not be reported.

Nutraceutical and Plant Extracts non-medicinal products

As the above products are made from plants and naturally occurring substances and are not chemical substances that do not have potent effects it was decided by the committee that the use thereof will be allowed. It is however still critically important for trainers and owners to report the use of these products in the preshow treatment form. The committee furthermore decided that some of these products will be monitored to evaluate whether they are being abused. For clarification, some of these products are mentioned below. Again, it remains the responsibility of the owner, and/or trainer to enquire from the committee if there is any doubt and to adhere to the dosing instructions of the manufacturers of these products. (Devils Claw, Curcumin, MSM, Menthol containing products such as Ice Man & BioSoothe and Valerian root.

Antibiotics and other antimicrobials

Although the use of antibiotics and antimicrobial medicines are not considered as doping and will therefore not be tested for, it is mandatory for trainers and owners to use these strictly under the supervision of the attending veterinarian and also report the use thereof in the preshow form.

The use of long-acting injectable penicillin medications amongst others Depocillin needs special consideration. Procaine one of the ingredients in Depocillin is listed as a prohibited substance and as such it is critical for the attending veterinarian to personally report the exact dosage and timeframe of treatment of these long-acting depo formulations of penicillin.

Products Removed from the Prohibited Substance List

- Proton-pump inhibitors, such as **Omeprazole**.
- Non-bronchodilator mucolytics **Bromhexine** and **Ambroxol**.

Aspirin, Salicylic Acid and its other Metabolites.

An in-depth discussion regarding the testing for Aspirin, Salicylic Acid and its other metabolites was held. It was conceded that these substances occur naturally in horse feed and especially high level are found in lucerne.

The panel agreed that the levels set by the racehorse industry may not apply to the saddle horse industry as racehorses' diet does not consist of as much lucerne as those in the Saddlebred horse industry. Therefore, it was agreed that

Aspirin and its metabolites be placed on the monitoring list and will not be reported as a positive test until further notice.

Liniments

The use of liniments containing Salicylic Acid will be monitored and currently allowed until further notice. It is however mandatory for trainers and owners to use these strictly according to the manufacturer's instructions and the attending veterinarian, and the use thereof must also be in the preshow form.

Caffeine

It is considered as a stimulant and as such it will remain on the list of prohibited substances.

Prohibited Substances List

Finally, it was agreed by the panel, that the current 2023 FEI Clean Sport Prohibited Substances Database, <https://prohibitedsubstancesdatabase.feicleansport.org/>, will still be adhered to with the only exceptions being those announced above.

Saddlebred horse owners, trainers and breeders are welcome to WhatsApp Dr Ockert Botha on 082 922 6355 to inquire regarding any product or active ingredient of any product that they are unsure of to ascertain whether this product is on the banned substance list.



Dr OJ Botha