



PROTOCOL FOR THE COLLECTION OF BLOOD SAMPLES WITHIN ONE CLEAR DAY OF RACING

AR. 254 prohibits all injections, including the insertion hypodermic needle, to a horse within the one clear day of racing. AR. 254(1) provides a discretion for the Stewards to approve the taking of blood samples for health and fitness assessment purposes from an acceptor within the one clear day prior to racing. Reasons for an application to collect a blood sample for such purposes the day before a race may include:

- There is evidence or suspicion of a clinical condition that may affect the health and/or performance of the horse, or a concern in a recent blood result and a further clinical blood sample test is recommended by a permitted RNSW veterinarian.
- There is a Sunday or public holiday occurring 2 days before the race, which precludes the collection and analysis of the blood sample that day.

To assist trainers and veterinarians in making application for such dispensation the following protocols may apply:

- The trainer must make the application in writing to the Stewards/Veterinary Officer to collect a blood sample no later than 4pm two days prior to race day (e.g. prior to 4pm Thursday for a horse engaged to race on the Saturday), unless otherwise agreed by the Stewards.
- If approval is granted, the sample collection must be performed prior to 9am, or otherwise agreed by the Stewards, on the day prior to racing.
- The sample must be obtained by use of a vacutainer blood collection system with a 20G needle or smaller.
- The sample collection must be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, a registered veterinarian who is the holder of a RNSW permit.
- The sample collection must be *immediately* recorded in the horse's stable treatment record and signed by the veterinarian who performed/witnessed the collection.
- The blood sample results must be forwarded to the Steward/Veterinary officer who approved the collection. The veterinary records and clinical laboratory accounts must be made available for inspection and auditing upon request of the Stewards.
- When a request has been made and approved to collect a blood sample within one clear day of racing, the sample must be collected, unless otherwise approved by the stewards.
- The Steward/Veterinary Officer approving any such request will notify the Chairman of Stewards, Deputy Chairman of Stewards, the Chief Steward of the meeting concerned, and the RNSW Investigation and Surveillance Unit.

Applications should be directed via email to the Chairman of Stewards mvangestal@racingnsw.com.au and Chief Veterinary Officer tkenig@racingnsw.com.au