



March 1, 2012

Dr. Ken Quirk
Texas Racing Commission
P.O. Box 12080
Austin, TX 78111

Dear Dr. Quirk,

During the February 11, 2012 meeting of the Texas Quarter Horse Association Race Committee, the committee voted unanimously to support the AQHA proposal for the use of Ventipulmin Syrup (Clenbuterol).

The conditions of the proposal were explained in a February 2, 2012 letter to the Texas Racing Commission.

I plan to attend the Safety and Medication Working Group meeting next Tuesday, March 6, at Sam Houston Race Park and will answer any questions you may have regarding our support.

Sincerely,

Rob Werstler
Director of Racing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rob Werstler'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

February 2, 2012

Chuck Trout
Executive Director
Texas Racing Commission
PO Box 12080
Austin, TX 78711

2012 FEB -6 PM 4:30

RECEIVED
TEXAS RACING
COMMISSION

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
ASSOCIATION

Dear Chuck:

One year ago, AQHA sent a letter to selected racing commissions and AQHA affiliates updating our efforts on medication issues and including a proposal for the use of Clenbuterol. That letter is attached for your reference. Today, we are reaching out to all states and provinces that race American Quarter Horses strongly urging you to address this serious issue; some already have. AQHA, our horsemen and members thank you for taking action.

AQHA still supports adoption of the 2011 proposal. AQHA recognizes that the FDA/Health Canada-approved Ventipulmin Syrup (Clenbuterol) is an effective medication when used as directed; however, because of the illegal manufacturing of a clenbuterol-like substitute, the anabolic effects of beta 2-agonists and the illegal doses horses receive of either substance, the following proposal was adopted:

- Establish a 30-day withdrawal of clenbuterol prior to a horse competing in a race. This does not ban clenbuterol. It establishes a 30-day prior to racing mark/threshold after which clenbuterol could not be administered. For training purposes and for horses competing beyond the 30-day window, clenbuterol use would still be allowed in racing American Quarter Horses.
- The threshold levels should be 200 pg/ml or less in urine and 1-2 pg/ml in blood.

Several states and provinces have already adopted rules regarding this issue or are addressing such rules. Ontario, Canada, was the first to do so last summer. California (Los Alamitos Race Course), New Mexico and Indiana have passed rules and other states are currently working together with their AQHA affiliate and racing commission to develop rules to benefit their state and our industry. I have included research and information for your review and if I can assist in obtaining the specific rule or language from a certain state or province please let me know.

Please feel free to contact me if I may be of assistance in any way. I can be available to meet with your commissioners or affiliate board if the need arises.

Sincerely,



Trey Buck
Executive Director of Racing
American Quarter Horse Association

Cc: Ed Martin, Association of Racing Commissioners International
Barbara Linke & Rob Werstler, Texas Quarter Horse Association
Ken Quirk, DVM, Chief Veterinarian, Texas Racing Commission

TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Rule 49.5. Piroplasmosis: Testing, Identification of Infected Equine

(a) Official Equine Piroplasmosis Test: A test for Equine Piroplasmosis applied and reported by a laboratory approved by the Commission. The sample must be collected by or under the direct supervision of an accredited veterinarian. A completed Equine Piroplasmosis Laboratory Test chart (Form 10-07) must be submitted with the sample, listing the description of the equine to include the following: age, breed, color, sex, animal's name, and all distinctive markings (i.e., color patterns, brands, tattoos, scars, or blemishes), and any RFID numbers applied to the animal. In the absence of any distinctive color markings or any form of visible permanent identification (brands, tattoos or scars), the animal must be identified by indicating the location of all hair whorls, vortices or cowlicks with an "X" on the illustration provided on the chart. In lieu of the manual illustration, digital photographs clearly showing the horse from the left side, right side, and full face may be incorporated in the chart. All charts must list owner's name, address, the animal's home premise and county, the name and address of the authorized individual collecting the test sample, and laboratory and individual conducting the test. The Piroplasmosis test document shall list one horse only.

(b) Reactor. A reactor is any equine which discloses a positive reaction for Piroplasmosis on a Complement Fixation (CF) or competitive Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (cELISA) applied at a laboratory approved by the Commission. The individual collecting the test sample must notify the animal's owner of the quarantine within 48 hours after receiving the results. All Piroplasmosis positive animals will be restricted. Retests of a reactor may only be performed by a representative of the Commission.

(c) Official Identification of Equine Positive for Piroplasmosis. A reactor must be identified with one or both of the following methods as determined by the Commission:

(1) The reactor equine may be identified with a permanent mark as described herein or as approved by the Commission. If branded the letter "P" will be applied by a representative of the Texas Animal Health Commission as a hot-iron brand or freeze-marking brand or a hoof brand. For a Freeze or Hot-Iron brand the "P" brand must be not less than two inches high and shall be applied to the left shoulder or left or right side of the neck of the reactor. For a hoof brand the "P" brand must be applied to the front right hoof and reapplied by a Commission representative as necessary to maintain visibility. Reactors must be identified within ten (10) days of the date the laboratory completes the test unless the equine is destroyed. Any equine destroyed prior to identification must be described in a written statement by the accredited veterinarian or other authorized personnel certifying to the destruction. This certification must be submitted to the Texas Animal Health Commission promptly; or

(2) Using official identification or identification device or a unique tattoo approved by the Commission that provides unique identification for each individual animal.

(d) Equine entering a racetrack facility must have a negative Piroplasmosis test (*Theileria equi*) within the past 12 months. A racetrack facility is grounds used to conduct organized horse racing.