

## **SALICYLIC ACID IN SPORTS HORSES:**

The NHRA (National Horse Racing Association) have issued an urgent warning regarding the use of products containing salicylic acid in/on horses that compete in competitions. A sudden drastic increase in the blood levels of horses that are tested for prohibited substances in various sports disciplines placed this ingredient/substance in the spotlight.

Salicylic acid is a natural pain control medication that is also found in certain plants. Therefore FEI has determined a threshold level that is allowed in the blood and urine. In short this means that a certain level of salicylic acid is allowed in a horse's blood because it can be consumed in their food or on pastures. Amongst the plants which naturally contain salicylic acid is Lucerne and the bark of certain Willow trees as well as other grazing. The threshold value determined by the FEI is 750 microgram salicylic acid per ml in the urine, or 6.5 microgram salicylic acid per ml in plasma. When this threshold is exceeded, it is seen as positive test for a prohibited substance because no natural intake can result in the higher levels (the threshold value was determined by scientific studies) and high levels then result from another source like **oral, rectal or dermal** preparations applied by the owners or riders before or during a competition.

There are quite a few commercial human and veterinary products that contain salicylic acid. It is found in Aspirin (the use of which before or during a ride is clearly forbidden – see attached list supplied by Dr Glynn Catton); rectal preparations (also prohibited and only available on prescription) and preparations that are rubbed onto the skin of animals/humans. The preparation penetrates the skin and is taken up by the bloodstream. These preparations are the most commonly used form of use of salicylic acid in horses and therefore the riders are warned to ensure which topical (on the skin) applications they use on competition horses. Gel preparations and bandages result in extending the contact period of the substance with the skin and therefore increases the level of uptake.

Examples of products that contain salicylic acid or derivatives thereof are: **(PLEASE NOTE – this is not a complete list and therefore the owner/rider is cautioned to check each product that they use before or during the ride, to get clarity on the content of those products that contain salicylic acid by reading the package insert).**

Antiseptic Dusting Powder; Pottie's Green Ointment; Rudduck's Green Ointment; Vetsense Otiderm; injectable preparation named Salsprin; Dermcusal; Phlegmon Black Label ointment; Pottie's Electric Oil; R-Iodine; Sprain Liniment Gel; Vet Balm; Sebbaderm; Antipoel Ointment; Diprosalic Ointment/Lotion; Elosalic Ointment; Posalfilin Ointment; Counterpain Ointment; Docrub Ointment; Sloan's Heat Rub cream; Thermo Rub; Rigly Horse Liniment; Udder balm like Golden Udder; Deep Heat Rub; Equiline Liniment; Oil of Wintergreen; Oticlear; Dr Scholl's products (Callus remover, Clear away); Exoderm; Kenakort A; Duocylat; Sodium salicyl; Salivet and others.

**NB: Any product that contains Salicylic acid, Acetylsalicylic and/or Methyl salicylic acid must please not be used or rubbed in under bandages for at least 3 days before the start of the ride.** (Remember – the ride already starts with the pre-checks).

Should natural levels be exceeded, it will be recorded as testing positive for a prohibited substance.

HUMAN ASPIRIN TABLETS

SOURCE MIMS

Asasantin Capsules

Bayer Aspirin Cardio 100 tabs

Bayer Aspirin Plus C Effervescent Tabs

Bayer Aspirin Tabs

Be -Tabs Aspirin Tabs

Compral Headache Powder

Compral Headache Tablets

Corenza C Effervescent Tabs

Coryx Effervescent Tabs

Disprin CV 100 Tabs

Disprin Tabs

Doloxene Co-65 Capsules

Distran Tablets

Ecotrim Tablets

KPP Powders

Lo-Aspirin Tablets

Myoprin Effervescent Tablets

Robaxisal Tablets

Tenston Tablets and Powder

Pyralvese Liquid

M2497MIC