

**THE JOCKEY CLUB
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION
May 12, 2020**

Recommendation: Clenbuterol

Clenbuterol is a beta-2 agonist bronchodilator approved by the FDA for horses as Ventipulmin® to treat lower airway disease. However, the use of clenbuterol and other beta-2 agonists have come under increasing scrutiny in pari-mutuel horse racing and in horses being prepared for public auction due to their potential misuse to alter muscle mass. Beta-2 agonists such as clenbuterol can alter muscle composition. The beta-2 agonists zilpaterol and ractopamine are used as growth promoters in livestock meat production and are considered prohibited substances in horse racing subject to Penalty Category 'A' by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI). In human sport, clenbuterol is categorized as an anabolic agent on the World Anti-Doping Agency List of Prohibited Substances.

California regulatory authorities previously reported a significant number of clenbuterol findings in out-of-competition test samples and post-race samples below the ARCI threshold collected from Thoroughbred racehorses. Based upon their analysis, the results appeared to be inconsistent with the therapeutic administration of clenbuterol but rather were more associated with a training management regimen. Effective January 1, 2020, California de-authorized any detectable level of clenbuterol in post-race blood and urine samples in Thoroughbreds. The same regulation had been in effect for Quarter Horses in California since 2015.

The ARCI Controlled Therapeutic Medication Schedule for Horses – Version 4.1 revised December 2019 currently lists clenbuterol with a recommended withdrawal guideline of 14 days. In 2015, the American Quarter Horse Association added clenbuterol and albuterol to the list of prohibited drugs or substances in racing and showing.

Due to the reported increasing frequency of use of beta-2 agonists in Thoroughbred racing and horses being prepared for public auction, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee calls for:

“All Thoroughbred racing regulatory authorities and sales companies immediately adopt regulations or conditions of sales banning the use of clenbuterol in Thoroughbred racehorses and Thoroughbreds consigned for public auction. Horses found to have the presence of clenbuterol in blood, urine, or hair samples should not be permitted to race or be sold at public auction for a minimum of 180 days upon confirmation of the finding. Only Thoroughbreds that are free from the presence of clenbuterol in blood, urine, and hair samples should be allowed to race or to sell at public auction.”

Furthermore, the committee recommends that penalties associated with clenbuterol in post-race samples should be modified to strongly deter the use of these medications in racing. All racing regulatory authorities should carefully monitor trends in the presence of

any beta-2 agonists in all biological samples, including hair, collected post-racing and out-of-competition for indication of misuse.