

## CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD



# Memorandum

**Date** : February 25, 2020  
**To** : ALL VETERINARIANS AND TRAINERS  
**From** : Rick M. Arthur, DVM, Equine Medical Director  
**Subject** : **FLUPHENAZINE WARNING**

Fluphenazine is an antipsychotic medication classified as a Class 2 drug with a penalty Class B by the CHRB which is consistent with ARCI's classifications. A recent fluphenazine violation at over ten (10) weeks post-reported administration is the basis for this warning. Fluphenazine is a long-acting drug with pharmacological activity lasting weeks and in some cases months in both horses and humans. The drug is also detectable for extended periods and can show considerable variation between subjects<sup>1,2</sup> and for the same individual as illustrated in the figure below.<sup>3</sup>

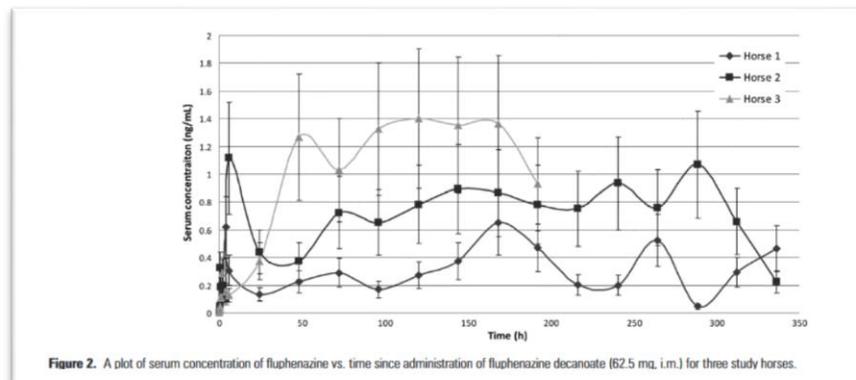


Figure 2. A plot of serum concentration of fluphenazine vs. time since administration of fluphenazine decanoate (62.5 mg, i.m.) for three study horses.

**The administration of fluphenazine to horses anywhere near racing presents a risk of a violation and should be avoided. Due to the unpredictability of this drug, pre-entry testing is unlikely to provide any assurances the horse will not positive even if clear on a pre-entry test.**

<sup>1</sup> Gitlin, Michael J., et al. "Persistence of fluphenazine in plasma after decanoate withdrawal." *Journal of clinical psychopharmacology* (1988).

<sup>2</sup> Ryan, M. & Stevenson, A. "The elimination of fluphenazine in horse urine and serum following 50mg intramuscular administration of fluphenazine decanoate to Standardbred mares. AORC, Paris, France (2008)

<sup>3</sup> Costello, Sara, et al. "Quantitation of Fluphenazine in Equine Serum Following Fluphenazine Decanoate Administration." *Journal of analytical toxicology* 37.8 (2013): 594-599.

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95825

Phone: (916) 263-6000 FAX: (916) 263-6042

[www.chrb.ca.gov](http://www.chrb.ca.gov)