

## CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD



# Memorandum

**Date** : February 10, 2020

**To** : ALL VETERINARIANS AND TRAINERS

**From** : Rick M. Arthur, DVM, Equine Medical Director

**Subject:** FLUMETHASONE (flumetasone/Flucort®) WARNING

There have been multiple violations for flumethasone since the beginning of the year. Those investigations are ongoing, but all have purportedly been administered outside of 48 hours and within 72 hours of racing. Flumethasone is a potent corticosteroid. Flumethasone is rapidly cleared from blood following administration to horses. Flumethasone pharmacological activity lasts longer than it is detectable in either blood or urine. All flumethasone is compounded since Flucort® is no longer available in the US. Based on our flumethasone administration study<sup>1</sup>, flumethasone is below the Level of Detection in blood by 48 hours but flumethasone can still be detected in urine at 72 hours. As has been the case since California started regulating corticosteroids, Maddy uses both blood and urine to screen for corticosteroids. There is not now, nor has there ever been, an authorized threshold for flumethasone.

Table 3

Mean  $\pm$  s.d. urine concentrations of flumetasone following i.v. administration of 5 mg to 12 exercised Thoroughbred horses

Time (h)	Flumetasone (ng/mL)
0	ND
24	1.55 $\pm$ 0.85
48	0.19 $\pm$ 0.10
72	0.06 $\pm$ 0.02

**At this time, we must advise extra caution when administering flumethasone within 96 hours of racing or an official work (Veterinarian's List-1866 (e)).**

<sup>1</sup> Knych, H. K., Arthur, R. M., McKemie, D. S., Baden, R., Oldberg, N., & Kass, P. H. (2019). Pharmacokinetics of intravenous flumetasone and effects on plasma hydrocortisone concentrations and inflammatory mediators in the horse. *Equine Veterinary Journal*, 51(2), 238-245.

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)