

**Washington Horse Racing Commission
Policy Statement 2018-01**

Threshold Levels Penalties

WAC 260-70-630 regulates threshold levels for approved therapeutic substances in post-race samples and WAC 260-70-640 regulates levels for permitted NSAID's. On March 9, 2018 the WHRC amended the threshold levels for clenbuterol, dexamethasone, flunixin, ketoprofen, methylprednisolone, and phenylbutazone. The amendments became effective on April 10, 2018. The WHRC intends to use the 2018 racing season to provide the trainers and practicing veterinarians time to adjust the dosage and treatment times that are necessary to ensure the samples do not exceed the amended threshold levels. Adoption of this policy includes the suspension of the penalty rules in WAC 260-84-110 and WAC 260-84-120 for the above listed medications pursuant to the stipulations below. **Additionally, the WHRC encourages the trainers and practicing veterinarians to utilize a free testing program, (as long as the program is made available by the testing laboratory), to determine levels of medication following administration. Please contact the Equine Medical Director for details.**

1. This policy only addresses the approved therapeutic substances and NSAID's which levels were amended at the March 9, 2018 WHRC meeting that are reported above the newly adopted levels, but below the levels allowed in 2017.
2. Practicing veterinarians are required to turn in veterinarians reports as outlined in WAC 260-70-540. Trainers are encouraged to maintain accurate medication logs for review by the Equine Medical Director and/or the Board of Stewards which may be used as mitigating circumstances.
3. The laboratory reports will be provided to the Equine Medical Director for review. The trainer and practicing veterinarian will be notified of the overage and a review of the treatment will be done.
4. For the purposes of this policy, each specific medication overage, with the exception of phenylbutazone, will be considered individually. For the first overage of a specific medication, the Equine Medical Director will record the overage and counsel the trainer and/or practicing veterinarian in writing or by email. A second violation of the same medication will result in a formal written warning issued by the Equine Medical Director. A third violation will be referred to the board of stewards.
5. For phenylbutazone, a trainer will receive a notification from the Equine Medical Director of an overage on each individual horse. If a second report is received after the first notification on the same horse, the trainer will be referred to the stewards for possible action, which may include the issuance of a formal ruling.
6. At the end of the season, the Equine Medical Director will provide a report to the commission addressing all reported positive post race samples of the medications listed above that were over the new thresholds but below the previous thresholds.

This policy will remain in force through September 23, 2018.

Adopted by the Washington Horse Racing Commission

April 13, 2018