



State of Indiana Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Michael R. Pence, Governor

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IHRC Advisory Notice to Horsemen

June 13, 2016

Levamisole Linked to Paste Used in the Treatment of EPM

On May 23rd an Advisory Notice was issued by the Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC) to horsemen reminding them to avoid products containing levamisole and tetramisole. Levamisole and tetramisole are sold as wormers for farm livestock and are also sometimes marketed as “immune stimulants” or “immune modulating” substances over the internet and in tack shops. Levamisole is classified by the Association of Racing Commissioners International’s Uniform Classification Guidelines as a Class 2, Penalty Class B substance while tetramisole is not currently classified.

The IHRC has recently discovered the presence of levamisole in a compounded paste, commonly marketed as equivalent to Baycox (Toltrazuril/Pyrimethamine Oral Paste), used in the treatment of Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM). Testing of the paste, pictured below, by the IHRC’s primary laboratory revealed the presence of levamisole, even though the substance was not listed as an ingredient.



This serves as a reminder to practicing veterinarians and horsemen to **exercise extreme caution** when utilizing any type of medication which is compounded. Regulation of compounding pharmacies widely differs from state-to-state, resulting in many that are untracked, under-regulated and under-inspected. Compounded drugs often have no official shelf life or expiration date and have not gone through the FDA approval process. In addition, many times basic standards for manufacturing have not been established or followed, safety information is not available and the listed ingredients, if any, often lack credibility. Horsemen who administer compounded medications **do so at their own risk**.

Mike Smith
Executive Director