



## ILLINOIS RACING BOARD

November 23, 2015

### ATTENTION HORSEMEN

Post-race blood samples are subject to analysis for excessive levels of cobalt. Cobalt is a naturally occurring element in the horse and is present in vitamin B-12 and related nutritional supplements. Excessive levels can stimulate production of red blood cells, thereby enhancing the performance of a racehorse. Excessive levels of cobalt found in a horse indicate a deliberate administration above and beyond what would be considered appropriate if properly administering supplements.

As defined in the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances and Recommended Penalties, the Board will begin enforcement of RCI's guidelines for cobalt, a class 3 drug, effective December 1, 2015.

For concentrations of 25 ppb (parts per billion) or greater, but are less than 50 ppb, the RCI recommended penalty is a written warning and the horse is placed on the Veterinarian's List. After a blood test confirms that the cobalt concentration falls below 25 ppb, the horse can be reinstated and eligible to race.

Concentrations of 50 ppb or greater, the RCI recommended penalties are as follows:

First offense - the trainer is suspended for a minimum of 15 days to a maximum of 60 days and fined between \$500 and \$1,000. The horse is disqualified, purse redistributed, and the horse is placed on the Veterinarian's List.

Second offense - the trainer is suspended for a minimum of 30 days to a maximum of 180 days and fined between \$1,000 and \$2,500. The horse is disqualified, purse redistributed, and the horse is placed on the Veterinarian's List.

Only when the horse tests below 25 ppb does it become eligible to race.

Once placed on the Veterinarian's List, all subsequent testing would be conducted at the owner's expense until cleared to race. Blood samples must be obtained by an official IRB veterinarian. Horsemen have access to the UIC Animal Forensic Toxicology Laboratory to determine cobalt concentrations on their horses. Test results can be obtained in four (4) days for \$60; three (3) days for \$75; two (2) days for \$90; and, one (1) day for \$100.