

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES, AND HOUSING AGENCY

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
Fax (916) 263-6042

www.chrb.ca.gov

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

Los Alamitos Race Course
4961 E. Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Contact: Mike Marten
(714) 820-2748
Cell: (714) 240-1870
Fax (714) 821-6232

MAY 12, 2014

TO: California Horsemen and Veterinarians

FROM: Rick Baedeker, CHRB Executive Director
Rick M. Arthur, DVM, Equine Medical Director

RE : ADVISORY ON THYROXINE AND INSTRUCTIONS PURSUANT TO
CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULES 1840, 1842, 1843 (c), 1843.3 (g) 1864,
1890, 1891 AND 1855 MEDICATION PROCEDURES AND RELATED INSTRUCTIONS

The California Horse Racing Board is concerned by the apparently indiscriminate use of thyroxine in horses racing and training at California tracks. Any thyroxine within CHRB enclosures must be prescribed by a veterinarian licensed by the CHRB. Furthermore, the thyroxine must be prescribed for a specific horse for a specific condition, and it must be properly labeled in compliance with federal and state laws and CHRB regulations.

The CHRB is issuing the following instructions pursuant to CHRB Rule 1855 concerning the use of thyroxine at all facilities within the CHRB's jurisdiction:

- Veterinarians prescribing thyroxine or any other thyroid hormone or thyroid hormone analog must include the diagnosis for the basis of prescribing the drug, the dosage, and the estimated last administration date. Thyroxine or thyroid hormones or thyroid hormone analogs may only be prescribed to a specific individual horse for a specific diagnosis and for a specific period of time. The horse, diagnosis, dosage and estimated last administration date must be reported to the CHRB Official Veterinarian on form CHRB-24 (Veterinarian Report). Reference: Rule 1842, Veterinarian Report; 1843(c), Medication, Drugs and Other Substances; Rule 1843.3(g), Penalties for Medication Violations.
- Prescribing veterinarians must include the name of the specific horse, the specific dosage and duration of treatment on the label of any thyroxine or any other thyroid hormone or thyroid hormone analog dispensed to horses within the CHRB enclosure to be in compliance with CHRB 1864, Labeling of Medication. Reference: Rule 1842, Veterinarian Report and Rule 1864, Labeling of Medication.

- Administration of thyroxine or thyroid hormones to horses must be reported by trainers on CHRB-60 (Trainer Medication Report) to the CHRB Official Veterinarian. Trainers are advised administering thyroxine or thyroid hormones to a horse not prescribed the medication is a violation of Rule 1843(c).
- Any thyroxine or thyroid hormones or thyroid hormone analogs found within the racing inclosure and not properly labeled will be confiscated as contraband. Reference: Rule 1840 Veterinary Practices and Treatments Restricted; Rule 1864, Labeling of Medication; Rule 1890, Possession of Contraband; and Rule 1891, Seizure of Contraband.

The CHRB encourages all owners to review their veterinary bills and to consult with their veterinarians if thyroxine has been prescribed to any of their horses. Thyroxine is prescribed for hypothyroid conditions and to assist weight loss in unusual circumstances.

#