



BHA NOTICE: USE OF LEVOTHYROXINE SODIUM

BHA recognises that equine endocrinology is a complex, relatively poorly researched, but fast growing field. It is aware of the administration of levothyroxine sodium to horses in training and would like to clarify whether, when and how that may be done under BHA Rules of Racing (Rules).

Levothyroxine sodium is a synthetic homologue of the naturally occurring thyroid hormone, thyroxine (T₄). It is a prohibited substance therefore it must not be present in the horses system on raceday.

The Rules - **Rule (C)28. Veterinary treatment and medication** clearly state that “*every treatment must be fully justifiable by the medical condition of the horse receiving the treatment*”.

In order for BHA to be satisfied that administration of levothyroxine sodium to a horse in training is justified the expectation is that the horse would have undergone dynamic endocrine tests showing good evidence of either equine metabolic syndrome or hypothyroidism.