



RACEDAY TESTING

Raceday testing comprises pre-race testing and post-race testing, both of which are conducted on the day on which a horse races. The aim of raceday testing is to ensure horses are not racing with medication or other drugs having an effect and so altering the horse's performance.

- **Pre-race testing** is carried out prior to the horse racing. Any horse that is selected for pre-race testing may not subsequently race unless the connections agree to it being tested.
- **Post-race testing** is usually carried out immediately after a race. Horses are selected for testing by Racecourse Stewards who notify the Veterinary Officer that a horse will be subject to a post-race test. Once selected horses are escorted from the unsaddling area to the sampling unit, and they are positively identified, usually by their microchip number. Horses are attended by the trainer's staff who under supervision ensure the horse is suitably cared for and cooled down prior to testing.

In most circumstances a urine sample is collected, however other samples such as blood and hair may be taken from a horse. Samples are taken by a member of the Equine Health and Welfare Department, split into 'A' and 'B' samples and then securely packaged for transport to LGC laboratory, near Newmarket.

Table 1: % tests resulting in positive result in raceday testing

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of Runners	92,025	94,786	90,174	90,836
Samples Analysed	7,952	7,619	7,182	7,476
Positives confirmed	25	13	14	16
% of tests proving +ve	0.31%	0.17%	0.19%	0.21%