

27 September 2018

## **OFFICIAL NOTICE**

### **HRNZ ADVISEMENT TO TRAINERS - NOTICE TO CEASE USING ALTRENOGEST INJECTIONS IN RACEHORSES**

New Zealand veterinarians have been advised by the Equine Branch of NZ Veterinary Assn to cease using all injectable forms of Altrenogest in racehorses forthwith. This decision has been made because the anabolic steroids Trenbolone and Trienolone have been detected in post-race urine samples in Australia from the use of Altrenogest injections. Trenbolone and Trienolone are impurities found in very low concentrations following the manufacture of the Altrenogest raw material.

#### **Background:**

Altrenogest is exempt under the Prohibited Substance Regulations when used in females. Altrenogest is a powerful progestin of the 19-nortestosterone group with the chemical name of allytrenbolone.

However, both Trenbolone and Trienolone are anabolic steroids and prohibited substances under both HRNZ and NZTR Prohibited Substance Regulations.

The use of Altrenogest in the oral form has been extensively used for decades and was first licensed by the ACVM in 1982. To date there has never been any Trenbolone or Trienolone detected in post-race urine samples when using oral Altrenogest and a possible reason could be Trenbolone and Trienolone are poorly absorbed by the oral route.

Two injection formulations were licensed by ACVM in November 2017.

#### **Recommendations from by the Equine Branch of NZ Veterinary Assn to Equine Vets:**

1. Cease using Altrenogest Injections in racing females.
2. When using oral Altrenogest in racing females use the listed label dose rate. Do not double dose.
3. Stop using oral Altrenogest in racing females 'one clear day' from racing.

#### **Basis of HRNZ position on the administration of Altrenogest**

Whilst the injectable form must not be used in racehorses for the reason outlined above, the continued use of oral Altrenogest is acceptable for the following reasons:

1. Health and safety. There is a risk that people may get injured either by colts becoming frisky beside mares in season or mares in season kicking out.
2. Mares in season can produce unreliable form.
3. Keeping race numbers up. Mares in season often don't make it to the races.

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