

Indiana Horse Racing Commission Staff Report

Cobalt Testing Results 2014



January 12, 2015
Joe Gorajec
Executive Director

Staff Report

Executive Summary

The enforcement of Indiana’s first-in-the-nation cobalt regulation has led to a substantial decline in cobalt abuse. The occurrence of very high levels of cobalt - over 100 ppb – have been all but eliminated.

Background

In the summer of 2014, the blood samples of 354 of standardbreds, thoroughbreds and quarter horses competing at Hoosier Park and Indiana Grand were analyzed for cobalt. Results of these tests indicated that excessive cobalt administration was jeopardizing the integrity of Indiana’s racing product and endangering the health and welfare of its racehorses. The results supported the conclusion that cobalt abuse was likely occurring on a daily basis.

On September 4, 2014, the Indiana Horse Racing Commission passed a rule regulating cobalt by establishing a threshold level of 25 ppb (parts per billion). The rule went into effect on September 30, 2014.

High Levels – Over 25 ppb

The period of enforcement began September 30, 2014. This period encompassed 60 days of racing – 25 days at Indiana Grand and 35 days at Hoosier Park. All totaled, 879 horses were tested. Of that total, 9 horses (1.0%) tested positive.¹

The enforcement of the new cobalt regulation shows an 83% decline in cobalt abuse. Below is a side-by-side comparison.

Table 1 UNREGULATED Summer 2014			
Breed	# of Horses	# of Samples >25 ppb	%
SB	180	14	7.8%
TB	127	4	3.1%
QH	47	3	6.4%
TOTAL	354	21	5.9%

Table 2 REGULATED Sept. 30, 2014 – Nov. 15, 2014			
Breed	# of Horses	# of Samples >25 ppb	%
SB	505	7	1.4%
TB	309	1	0.3%
QH	65	1	1.5%
TOTAL	879	9	1.0%

¹ The positive test count does not include two horses that tested over 25 ppb but whose split sample tested under the regulatory threshold.

Very High Levels – 100 ppb or more

Even more significant than the 83% overall decline in cobalt abuse is the virtual elimination of cobalt levels over 100 ppb. Overall, cobalt abuse at these very high levels dropped 96.8 % and disappeared completely in both standardbreds and thoroughbreds.

The tables below compare the pre-regulation period with the regulated period.

Table 3 UNREGULATED Summer 2014			
Breed	# of Horses	# of Samples >100 ppb	%
SB	180	5	2.8%
TB	127	3	2.4%
QH	47	3	6.4%
TOTAL	354	11	3.1%

Table 4 REGULATED Sept. 30, 2014 – Nov. 15, 2014			
Breed	# of Horses	# of Samples >100 ppb	%
SB	505	0	0%
TB	309	0	0%
QH	65	1 ²	1.5%
TOTAL	879	1	0.1%

² The quarter horse tested at a concentration of 249 ppb.

Other Findings

The tests results of each of the 879 horses tested are provided in Exhibit A. These are believed to be the first sampling of cobalt levels in a regulated environment anywhere. Analysis of this data leads to a few interesting facts.

FACT #1 – The average (median) cobalt level of all horses tested is 3.0 ppb. The breakdown by breed is as follows: standardbred (4.2 ppb), thoroughbred (2.0 ppb) and quarter horse (4.2 ppb).

FACT #2 – The percentage of horses testing less than a concentration of 10 ppb is 93.0%. The breakdown by breed is as follows: standardbred (90.5%), thoroughbred (97.1%) and quarter horse (93.8%).

Penalties

Prior to the cobalt regulation's effective date, and upon encouragement from the Indiana HBPA, the Executive Director issued a policy statement allowing for a tiered penalty scheme (See Exhibit B). The first tier allows for no trainer penalty for a violation under 50 ppb but mandates a forfeiture of purse. Of the 9 positive tests, 6 tested at a concentration of more than 25 ppb but less than 50 ppb. Four rulings have been issued. Five positive tests remain in the adjudication process.

Giving Thanks

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission would like to thank the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and LGC Science, Inc. for their efforts without which this program would not be possible.

1/12/15
Date

Joe Gorajec
Joe Gorajec
Executive Director

**Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results**

505 Total Samples

Standardbred	
Concentration	
1	88.9
2	56.2
3	43.9
4	41.3
5	37.7
6	37.4
7	34.6
8	28.2
9	27.8
10	23.8
11	23.7
12	19.1
13	18.3
14	17.9
15	17.9
16	17.2
17	16.6
18	16.6
19	15.9
20	15.8
21	15.3
22	14.6
23	14.6
24	14.5
25	14.2
26	14.1
27	14.0
28	14.0
29	13.7
30	13.7
31	13.6
32	13.1
33	13.0
34	12.7
35	12.7
36	12.7
37	12.4
38	12.3

309 Total Samples

Thoroughbred	
Concentration	
1	38.1
2	17.5
3	17.0
4	16.5
5	12.1
6	11.0
7	10.5
8	10.4
9	10.1
10	9.9
11	9.4
12	9.3
13	9.3
14	9.3
15	9.0
16	8.8
17	8.4
18	8.3
19	8.1
20	7.6
21	7.3
22	7.3
23	7.3
24	7.2
25	7.2
26	7.2
27	7.1
28	7.0
29	7.0
30	7.0
31	6.9
32	6.9
33	6.9
34	6.8
35	6.8
36	6.7
37	6.7
38	6.6

65 Total Samples

Quarter Horse	
Concentration	
1	248.9
2	14.9
3	14.6
4	10.4
5	8.6
6	8.4
7	7.8
8	7.2
9	7.1
10	6.8
11	6.7
12	6.6
13	6.5
14	6.5
15	6.5
16	6.4
17	6.3
18	6.3
19	6.3
20	6.2
21	6.2
22	6.0
23	6.0
24	5.9
25	5.9
26	5.9
27	5.9
28	5.8
29	5.8
30	5.8
31	5.8
32	5.6
33	5.6
34	5.4
35	5.4
36	5.4
37	5.3
38	5.3

**Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results**

Standardbred	
Concentration	
39	12.1
40	12.0
41	12.0
42	11.9
43	11.9
44	11.0
45	10.7
46	10.4
47	10.3
48	10.0
49	9.8
50	9.6
51	9.6
52	9.6
53	9.4
54	9.2
55	9.1
56	9.0
57	9.0
58	8.9
59	8.7
60	8.6
61	8.6
62	8.4
63	8.4
64	8.3
65	8.2
66	8.2
67	8.1
68	8.0
69	8.0
70	8.0
71	8.0
72	8.0
73	7.9
74	7.9
75	7.8
76	7.8
77	7.7

Thoroughbred	
Concentration	
39	6.4
40	6.4
41	6.3
42	6.3
43	6.3
44	6.1
45	6.0
46	5.9
47	5.8
48	5.8
49	5.8
50	5.6
51	5.5
52	5.5
53	5.3
54	5.3
55	5.3
56	5.3
57	5.2
58	5.2
59	5.2
60	5.1
61	5.1
62	5.1
63	5.0
64	4.9
65	4.9
66	4.9
67	4.8
68	4.8
69	4.8
70	4.7
71	4.7
72	4.6
73	4.6
74	4.6
75	4.5
76	4.5
77	4.5

Quarter Horse	
Concentration	
39	5.2
40	5.1
41	5.0
42	4.8
43	4.7
44	4.5
45	4.5
46	4.3
47	4.1
48	4.0
49	3.9
50	3.6
51	3.6
52	3.6
53	3.2
54	3.1
55	3.0
56	2.3
57	2.2
58	2.1
59	2.0
60	1.7
61	1.6
62	1.6
63	1.1
64	1.0
65	0.8

**Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results**

Standardbred	
Concentration	
78	7.6
79	7.5
80	7.5
81	7.5
82	7.5
83	7.4
84	7.4
85	7.3
86	7.3
87	7.2
88	7.1
89	7.0
90	7.0
91	7.0
92	6.9
93	6.9
94	6.8
95	6.8
96	6.7
97	6.7
98	6.7
99	6.7
100	6.6
101	6.5
102	6.4
103	6.4
104	6.3
105	6.3
106	6.3
107	6.2
108	6.2
109	6.1
110	6.1
111	6.1
112	6.0
113	6.0
114	6.0
115	6.0
116	5.9

Thoroughbred	
Concentration	
78	4.4
79	4.4
80	4.3
81	4.2
82	4.2
83	4.2
84	4.2
85	4.1
86	4.1
87	4.0
88	3.9
89	3.9
90	3.8
91	3.8
92	3.8
93	3.7
94	3.7
95	3.7
96	3.7
97	3.5
98	3.4
99	3.4
100	3.4
101	3.4
102	3.4
103	3.3
104	3.3
105	3.2
106	3.2
107	3.2
108	3.1
109	3.1
110	3.1
111	3.0
112	3.0
113	3.0
114	2.9
115	2.9
116	2.9

Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results

Standardbred	
Concentration	
117	5.9
118	5.9
119	5.8
120	5.8
121	5.8
122	5.8
123	5.8
124	5.8
125	5.8
126	5.8
127	5.7
128	5.7
129	5.7
130	5.7
131	5.6
132	5.5
133	5.5
134	5.5
135	5.4
136	5.4
137	5.3
138	5.3
139	5.3
140	5.3
141	5.3
142	5.3
143	5.2
144	5.2
145	5.1
146	5.1
147	5.1
148	5.1
149	5.1
150	5.1
151	5.1
152	5.1
153	5.0
154	5.0
155	5.0

Thoroughbred	
Concentration	
117	2.9
118	2.8
119	2.8
120	2.8
121	2.7
122	2.7
123	2.7
124	2.7
125	2.6
126	2.6
127	2.6
128	2.5
129	2.5
130	2.5
131	2.4
132	2.4
133	2.4
134	2.4
135	2.4
136	2.4
137	2.4
138	2.3
139	2.3
140	2.3
141	2.3
142	2.3
143	2.3
144	2.3
145	2.2
146	2.2
147	2.2
148	2.2
149	2.1
150	2.1
151	2.1
152	2.1
153	2.0
154	2.0
155	2.0

**Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results**

Standardbred	
Concentration	
156	5.0
157	4.9
158	4.9
159	4.9
160	4.9
161	4.9
162	4.8
163	4.8
164	4.8
165	4.8
166	4.7
167	4.7
168	4.7
169	4.7
170	4.6
171	4.6
172	4.6
173	4.6
174	4.6
175	4.5
176	4.5
177	4.5
178	4.5
179	4.5
180	4.5
181	4.5
182	4.5
183	4.4
184	4.4
185	4.4
186	4.4
187	4.4
188	4.4
189	4.3
190	4.3
191	4.3
192	4.3
193	4.3
194	4.3

Thoroughbred	
Concentration	
156	1.9
157	1.9
158	1.9
159	1.9
160	1.8
161	1.8
162	1.8
163	1.8
164	1.8
165	1.8
166	1.8
167	1.7
168	1.7
169	1.7
170	1.7
171	1.7
172	1.7
173	1.7
174	1.7
175	1.7
176	1.7
177	1.7
178	1.7
179	1.7
180	1.6
181	1.6
182	1.6
183	1.6
184	1.6
185	1.6
186	1.6
187	1.6
188	1.5
189	1.5
190	1.5
191	1.5
192	1.5
193	1.5
194	1.5

**Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results**

Standardbred	
Concentration	
195	4.3
196	4.3
197	4.3
198	4.2
199	4.2
200	4.2
201	4.2
202	4.2
203	4.2
204	4.2
205	4.1
206	4.1
207	4.1
208	4.1
209	4.0
210	4.0
211	4.0
212	4.0
213	4.0
214	4.0
215	4.0
216	4.0
217	3.9
218	3.9
219	3.9
220	3.9
221	3.9
222	3.9
223	3.9
224	3.8
225	3.8
226	3.8
227	3.7
228	3.7
229	3.7
230	3.7
231	3.7
232	3.7
233	3.6

Thoroughbred	
Concentration	
195	1.5
196	1.5
197	1.5
198	1.5
199	1.5
200	1.4
201	1.4
202	1.4
203	1.4
204	1.4
205	1.4
206	1.4
207	1.4
208	1.4
209	1.4
210	1.4
211	1.4
212	1.4
213	1.4
214	1.4
215	1.4
216	1.3
217	1.3
218	1.3
219	1.3
220	1.3
221	1.3
222	1.3
223	1.3
224	1.3
225	1.3
226	1.3
227	1.3
228	1.3
229	1.3
230	1.3
231	1.3
232	1.2
233	1.2

Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results

Standardbred	
Concentration	
234	3.6
235	3.6
236	3.6
237	3.6
238	3.6
239	3.6
240	3.5
241	3.5
242	3.5
243	3.5
244	3.4
245	3.4
246	3.4
247	3.4
248	3.4
249	3.3
250	3.3
251	3.3
252	3.3
253	3.3
254	3.3
255	3.3
256	3.3
257	3.3
258	3.3
259	3.3
260	3.3
261	3.2
262	3.2
263	3.2
264	3.2
265	3.2
266	3.2
267	3.1
268	3.1
269	3.1
270	3.1
271	3.1
272	3.1

Thoroughbred	
Concentration	
234	1.2
235	1.2
236	1.2
237	1.2
238	1.2
239	1.2
240	1.2
241	1.2
242	1.2
243	1.2
244	1.1
245	1.1
246	1.1
247	1.1
248	1.1
249	1.1
250	1.1
251	1.1
252	1.1
253	1.0
254	1.0
255	1.0
256	1.0
257	1.0
258	1.0
259	1.0
260	0.9
261	0.9
262	0.9
263	0.9
264	0.9
265	0.9
266	0.9
267	0.9
268	0.9
269	0.9
270	0.9
271	0.9
272	0.9

**Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results**

Standardbred	
Concentration	
273	3.1
274	3.0
275	3.0
276	3.0
277	3.0
278	3.0
279	3.0
280	3.0
281	3.0
282	2.9
283	2.9
284	2.9
285	2.9
286	2.9
287	2.9
288	2.9
289	2.9
290	2.9
291	2.8
292	2.8
293	2.8
294	2.7
295	2.7
296	2.6
297	2.6
298	2.6
299	2.6
300	2.5
301	2.5
302	2.5
303	2.5
304	2.5
305	2.5
306	2.4
307	2.4
308	2.4
309	2.4
310	2.4
311	2.4

Thoroughbred	
Concentration	
273	0.9
274	0.8
275	0.8
276	0.8
277	0.8
278	0.8
279	0.8
280	0.8
281	0.8
282	0.8
283	0.8
284	0.8
285	0.8
286	0.7
287	0.7
288	0.7
289	0.7
290	0.7
291	0.7
292	0.7
293	0.7
294	0.7
295	0.6
296	0.6
297	0.6
298	0.6
299	0.6
300	0.6
301	0.6
302	0.6
303	0.6
304	0.6
305	0.6
306	0.5
307	0.5
308	0.4
309	0.4

Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results

Standardbred	
Concentration	
312	2.4
313	2.3
314	2.3
315	2.3
316	2.3
317	2.3
318	2.3
319	2.3
320	2.3
321	2.3
322	2.2
323	2.2
324	2.2
325	2.2
326	2.2
327	2.2
328	2.2
329	2.2
330	2.1
331	2.1
332	2.1
333	2.1
334	2.1
335	2.0
336	2.0
337	2.0
338	2.0
339	2.0
340	2.0
341	2.0
342	2.0
343	2.0
344	2.0
345	1.9
346	1.9
347	1.9
348	1.9
349	1.9
350	1.9

Indiana Horse Racing Commission
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Standardbred	
Concentration	
351	1.9
352	1.9
353	1.8
354	1.8
355	1.8
356	1.8
357	1.8
358	1.8
359	1.8
360	1.8
361	1.7
362	1.7
363	1.7
364	1.7
365	1.7
366	1.7
367	1.7
368	1.7
369	1.7
370	1.7
371	1.7
372	1.6
373	1.6
374	1.6
375	1.6
376	1.6
377	1.6
378	1.5
379	1.5
380	1.5
381	1.5
382	1.5
383	1.5
384	1.5
385	1.5
386	1.5
387	1.5
388	1.5
389	1.5

Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results

Standardbred	
Concentration	
390	1.5
391	1.4
392	1.4
393	1.4
394	1.4
395	1.4
396	1.4
397	1.4
398	1.4
399	1.4
400	1.4
401	1.4
402	1.4
403	1.4
404	1.3
405	1.3
406	1.3
407	1.3
408	1.3
409	1.3
410	1.3
411	1.3
412	1.3
413	1.3
414	1.3
415	1.3
416	1.2
417	1.2
418	1.2
419	1.2
420	1.2
421	1.2
422	1.2
423	1.2
424	1.2
425	1.2
426	1.2
427	1.2
428	1.2

Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results

Standardbred	
Concentration	
429	1.2
430	1.1
431	1.1
432	1.1
433	1.1
434	1.1
435	1.1
436	1.1
437	1.1
438	1.1
439	1.1
440	1.1
441	1.1
442	1.1
443	1.1
444	1.1
445	1.1
446	1.0
447	1.0
448	1.0
449	1.0
450	1.0
451	1.0
452	1.0
453	1.0
454	1.0
455	1.0
456	1.0
457	1.0
458	1.0
459	1.0
460	1.0
461	1.0
462	1.0
463	1.0
464	1.0
465	1.0
466	1.0
467	0.9

Indiana Horse Racing Commission
2014 Cobalt Testing Results

Standardbred	
Concentration	
468	0.9
469	0.9
470	0.9
471	0.9
472	0.9
473	0.9
474	0.9
475	0.9
476	0.9
477	0.9
478	0.9
479	0.9
480	0.9
481	0.9
482	0.8
483	0.8
484	0.8
485	0.8
486	0.8
487	0.8
488	0.8
489	0.7
490	0.7
491	0.7
492	0.7
493	0.7
494	0.7
495	0.7
496	0.7
497	0.7
498	0.7
499	0.6
500	0.6
501	0.6
502	0.6
503	0.6
504	0.6
505	0.4



State of Indiana
Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Michael R. Pence, Governor

www.in.gov/hrc

INDIANA HORSE RACING COMMISSION

COBALT PENALTY POLICY

The stewards and judges will consider the specific level of cobalt in the horse should any horse test above 25 parts per billion (ppb), the threshold set in the new Commission rule, which will be effective September 30, 2014. Specifically, the trainer of any horse testing between 25-50 ppb will not be fined or suspended. However, such levels will still be considered a positive test, and the horse with the violation will be disqualified and the purse forfeited.

This policy shall be in effect for the 2014 race meets.

September 19, 2014