



State of Indiana

Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Eric Holcomb, Governor

www.in.gov/hrc

IHRC Advisory Notice to Horsemen

October 25, 2021

Advisory on Over-The-Counter Equine Supplements and Herbals

The IHRC is advising horsemen to please exercise caution when using supplements and holistic medications, especially those that claim to treat or prevent illness. Many of these drugs/supplements are not FDA approved and may contain ingredients that are not regulated and could potentially cause harm to a horse and/or potentially result in a positive test. Beware of the products claiming that they “don’t test” or are “test free”.

Many animal drugs and supplements are marketed without approval required by law. Unapproved animal drugs include drugs compounded by pharmacies or veterinarians, herbals, homeopathic products, and “animal supplements”. The FDA defines a drug as *“any substance, food or non-food, that is used to treat, cure, mitigate, or prevent a disease. A drug is also any non-food substance that is intended to affect the structure or function of the animal. Drugs must be shown to be safe and effective for intended use.”*

What does FDA approval mean?

- The product is safe and effective for its intended use
- The methods, facilities and controls used for the manufacturing, processing and packaging of the drug are adequate to preserve its identity, strength, quality and purity

What do you get with FDA approval?

- Target Animal Safety
- Effectiveness
- Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls
- Human Food Safety
- Environmental Impact
- Labeling (FDA generated label)

Manufacturers of non-FDA approved products cannot claim their products prevent, treat, or cure disease.

Because these products lack oversight and safety by the FDA, the IHRC strongly recommends that horsemen use caution in administering these to horses participating in racing.

For questions, please contact Dr. Kerry Peterson, IHRC Equine Medical Director.

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