



## **British Horseracing Authority Medication and Doping Control Research Summary: Fluticasone**

### Why the research was needed

Fluticasone is a corticosteroid medication widely used in animals and humans for the treatment of inflammatory airway conditions (eg. asthma), given via a 'puffer'. There is no preparation licensed for use in horses in Britain but under veterinary medicine prescribing rules ('cascade') equine veterinarians are able to use a preparation licensed in man, 'Flixotide' (GSK Pharma UK Ltd). The main reason for this study was to develop a Detection Time for 'Flixotide' to assist veterinarians to use it in practice with minimal risk of it being present in the horse on raceday. The study is part of the collaborative European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee (EHSLC) programme to develop Detection Times for corticosteroid medications. This was set up to reduce the number of animal studies needed through pooling of resources. Another aspect of this study was that it involved taking saliva samples as part of a wider project to develop new ways of sampling which may be more 'user friendly'.

### Overview of the study

The study was conducted with horses at the Authority's Centre for Racehorse Studies and analysis at HFL Sport Science. Research procedures, which complied with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, were subject to ethical review and the analyses were conducted to industry standard quality procedures. The study plan was designed following extensive veterinary consultation with EHSLC and practising UK vets: a total dose of 2mg was given twice a day for 5 days to a total of 6 horses. A jugular vein catheter was used for days 5 & 6 when there was more intensive blood sampling, then removed before a further 3 days of reduced blood, urine and saliva sampling. We know from previous work that because this drug is designed to affect only the respiratory tract, it is not easy to detect and that the route of administration causes the amount of it getting into the horse to be very variable. When there is variability like this, more data are usually needed since all our results have to be statistically accurate. We therefore anticipate that these 'inhalation' studies will probably involve more horses than usual before useful data are available; this first phase is likely to be followed by further studies.

### Outcomes and Conclusions

It has been possible to detect the drug in plasma and saliva taken several days after administration; remaining samples are currently being analysed. Further studies with this medication are likely to be needed because of the variation as described above. Early results will nonetheless be discussed by the EHLSC in February 2011 with the aim to provide advice to trainers and their veterinary surgeons as quickly as possible.

Equine Science and Welfare Department [ewsadmin@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:ewsadmin@britishhorseracing.com)  
British Horseracing Authority Limited, 75 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS.

Tel: 020 7152 0090 Fax: 020 7152 0001

Web: [britishhorseracing.com](http://britishhorseracing.com) Email: [info@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:info@britishhorseracing.com)

Registered Number: 2813358 England. Calls may be recorded