



HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

## **EIPH Endoscopic Examination Policy**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure the safety and welfare of horses which are observed upon endoscopic examination to have a significant amount of blood present in the trachea as a result of Exercise-Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage (EIPH);
- Ensure the safety of licensed participants, particularly those who drive, or compete in races against, horses which have been observed to have a significant amount of blood present in the trachea as a result of EIPH;
- Ensure the racing performances of each horse is as consistent as possible as EIPH can adversely affect performance.

The purposes of this policy will be achieved by allowing sufficient time for healing to occur by preventing the horse from racing for a specified period. The purposes of this policy will be further aided by requiring a clearance from the stable veterinarian and the horse required to trial satisfactorily prior to being permitted to race again.

### **Background**

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Stewards have formulated this policy as the safety and welfare of horses and participants are of paramount importance to HRV, the harness racing industry and a fundamental expectation of the general public.

The consistent performance of horses is also necessary to ensure wagering confidence.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to any horse which undergoes an endoscopic examination at the direction of the HRV Stewards or an officiating veterinarian at a race or trial meeting conducted within Victoria.

## **Relevant Australian Harness Racing Rules**

The Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR) provide the necessary powers for Stewards to order a horse to be examined in any manner in which they deem appropriate.

AHRR 15(1)(k) states:

15(1) Stewards are empowered –

(k) to inspect, examine or test in such manner as they consider appropriate any person, horse, racetrack, stable, stud, artificial breeding station or other place, item, document, equipment, vehicle or substance.

The AHRR provide further powers for the Stewards to bar a horse from racing.

AHRR 15(1)(aa) states:

15(1) Stewards are empowered –

(aa) to bar a horse from racing;

## **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy the following definitions apply:

*‘Significant amount of blood in the trachea’*

Grade 3 and/or Grade 4 EIPH as identified on endoscopic examination by:

Grade 3 EIPH = multiple, distinct streams of blood covering more than a third of the tracheal circumference, with no blood pooling at the thoracic inlet;

Grade 4 EIPH = multiple, coalescing streams of blood covering more than 90% of the tracheal surface, with blood pooling at the thoracic inlet.

*‘Officiating Veterinarian’*

A Veterinarian registered by the Victorian Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria, or similar, and is engaged by a harness racing club in Victoria and/or HRV to officiate as a Veterinarian at a race or trial meeting.

## **Stewards Action**

Upon the HRV Stewards being informed by the officiating Veterinarian that, in their opinion, a horse has been observed upon endoscopic examination to have a significant amount of blood in the trachea as a result of EIPH the following shall occur:

- The horse be stood down from racing for a minimum period of twenty eight (28) days from the date of detection;
  
- The horse not be permitted to start in a race until a veterinary clearance is provided to HRV;
  
- The horse trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards on one occasion after a period of no less than twenty one (21) days expiring from the date of detection.

Should a horse suffer a bleeding attack as defined by AHRR 101 the mandatory provisions of that rule shall be acted upon when it is determined, in the opinion of the Stewards, such occurrence was not from external trauma.