



TEXAS RACING COMMISSION
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MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Tommy Hays, Dr. Bryan Neff, Dr. Armando L. Moya, Dr. Clayton McCook, Dr. Steve Hurlbert, Dr. Marty Ivey, Dr. Mike Fox

From: David Holmes, Executive Director

Date: August 10, 2026

Subject: Clarification of Corticosteroid Withdrawal Guidelines and Race-Day Testing

After consideration and discussions with regulatory Veterinarians, backside Veterinarians, and Veterinarians on the RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee, the Texas Racing Commission will not be recommending an inclusion of permissible Isoflupredone and Traimcinolone values on testing samples collected during race days.

RMTC invested considerable effort and research into publishing withdrawal guidelines (link below) associated with corresponding dosage administrations for both of the corticosteroids in question resulting in recent Texas positives. Veterinarians practicing in Texas are encouraged to thoroughly read the RMTC withdrawal guidelines while contemplating the precise dosages described within the study (example: only one joint, at 20 milligrams for Isoflupredone). Deviations to this study (multiple joints, compounded medications with varying concentrations, administration within 7-day period, unknown secondary administrations [by any route] by a trainer, type of joint, etc.) may cause the potential outcome of a corticosteroid lab positive. Withdrawal Guidelines are for informational purposes only. The guidance provided was based on administration of a single specific dosage, and does not constitute a guarantee.

The Texas Racing Commission recognizes the study's threshold values as a baseline for withdrawal times, and it does not constitute "permissible limits." To ensure the post-race detections do not represent a positive value under a 100 picogram level (the threshold for the withdrawal guidelines), it is the responsibility of the attending Veterinarian to possibly extend withdrawal times, reduce the dosage, or cease injecting multiple joints (Ex: 6 packs) when requested by Trainers as a form of race preparation.

Our agency will consider a rules revision at upcoming TXRC Rules Committee meetings in 2026 regarding a set prohibition for any corticosteroid administration within a certain timeframe from race (Example: no intra-articular injections within 7 days, or no multiple intra-

articular injections within 14 days) but this process would not be immediate. The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the Agency's stance on the lack of corticosteroid "permissible levels" on race day and encourage all attending Veterinarians to generously apply the RMTC withdrawal guidelines while factoring in additional variables.

To solidify the spirit of education, transparency, and voluntary compliance when using therapeutic medications, the Texas Racing Commission will not pursue violations involving Isoflupredone and Triamcinolone at Texas races from May 2026 to the date of this memorandum IF the positive was within the posted RMTC testing threshold values contained within the published study, which is 100 picograms in the case of these two drugs brought forward by the Texas Veterinary community.

https://rmtcnet.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-12-Schedule_CTS_revision-to-clenbuterol-1.pdf

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Holmes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Holmes".

David Holmes

Executive Director

Texas Racing Commission

cc: Dr. Bond, Dr. Criner, Dr. Canady, Dr. Sorenson, Mr. Hilario "Lalo" Torres, Ms. Darline Knight