



Atlantic Provinces Harness Racing Commission
5 Gerald MacCarville Drive, Kensington, PEI, COB 1M0
T-902-836-5500 F-902-836-5320

The Rules of Standardbred Harness Racing in this jurisdiction call for an indefinite suspension for a third or subsequent offence under the Equine Medication Control provisions, with the matter being referred to the Commission for review and determination. This rule was enacted because Commission takes such offences very seriously and especially so in the case of repeat offences. Occurrences are extremely rare. However, as the evidence showed in this particular case, with this particular medication, repeated overages in the same horse suggest a potentially innocent cause. The medication in question, Furosemide (also known as Lasix), is an approved medication in certain quantities if administered within specific parameters. Horses are expected to metabolize the medication at such a rate that post race test results will be below an established threshold. Expert medical evidence established that a small percentage of racehorses will not metabolize the medication as quickly as expected and that this phenomenon is a characteristic of the horse. Where the trainer is able to prove that he or she followed the program requirements, had no reason to suspect that the horse may have an issue metabolizing the drug, and took all reasonable precautions to prevent the overage, the indefinite suspension rule is unduly harsh. Although such cases are expected to be exceedingly rare, the Commission intends to review the indefinite suspension rule to ensure fairness for industry participants. On the evidence in this case, the Commission ultimately determined that Mr. Campbell should not be held responsible for the repeated Lasix overages in the Lady Sheriff".

Mr. Campbell accepted responsibility on a separate Class 3 offence and the Commission imposed a penalty of a suspension and fine that it deemed appropriate in light of all of the circumstances. The commission accepted that there were mitigating circumstances. As a result of this incident, a thorough review of APHRC's processes and procedures will take place in the coming months, as well as training for Officials, Commissioners, and staff.

APHRC