May 22, 2015

COBALT TESTING

The Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission announced at their monthly meeting yesterday, May 20, 2015 that starting on June 1, 2015 the following measures being taken on the subject of cobalt:

Random sampling will be taking place on horses racing at each of the harness racetracks in Pennsylvania.

Please be advised that the Commission hereby sets the threshold level for Cobalt at 25 parts per billion.

Laboratory results between 25 parts per billion (25 ng/ml) and 50 parts per billion (50 ng/ml) will receive a warning and the horse will be placed on the veterinarian list until such time that the horse’s cobalt levels are below the 25 parts per billion threshold. It will be the responsibility of the trainer to present the horse and all costs associated with the testing of any sample provided to ensure compliance. A laboratory approved by the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission must be used and results are to be submitted to the Commission by the authorized laboratory. No horse shall be removed from the veterinarian’s list until the horse is below the established threshold limit.

Those horses testing above 50 parts per billion will receive notification that the horse has tested positive. Cobalt will be considered a class B penalty carrying a 15 day suspension and $500 fine absent mitigating or aggravating factors. The horse will also be placed on the veterinarian list until such time that the horse’s cobalt level falls below the 25 parts per billion threshold. All testing costs involving in this situation will be the responsibility of the trainer as set forth above.

George A. Crawford, Executive Secretary

Chairman Jonathan Newman
Commissioner Noah Wenger

Executive Secretary George Crawford