FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Am I allowed to stay and watch? How can I be sure the sample was collected properly and labeled correctly?
Yes, you may stay and observe the entire process, or you may ask a friend to do so. You may ask the testing veterinarian and technicians any questions you have, or ask them to explain the procedures you observe. No one will be upset if you have a legitimate concern, and they will do their best to prevent a problem, or correct one if it occurs.

What if my horse needs to go into another class or must remain at the ring for further performance in a class or to jog/be present for awards? What if the horse is done showing and needs to be uncharted and cooled out?
You will be asked to provide accurate information to testing personnel. Please be courteous and make your horse or pony available promptly. No one will be upset if you have a legitimate concern, and they will do their best to prevent a problem, or correct one if it occurs.

What protects the samples from having something put into them after collection or from being opened after they are collected?
Only new sample collection equipment is used, meaning blood tubes, needles, and urine sample containers. Also, all equipment and samples are kept either in the possession of the testing veterinarian and technician, or under lock and key. Each sample is sealed with evidence tape, and placed in a plastic security bag. This is done while you watch. They are then locked up and kept secure. Any tampering of the sample would be evident if a seal or security bag were not intact.

What prevents a drug from getting into the urine container when the lid is off?
The lid is screwed onto the container tightly as soon as the sample is collected. If something accidentally touches the inside of the lid or container, for example, dirt or wood shavings, that container will not be used. The technician will replace the container with a new one before the sample is collected.

What is furosemide (Lasix®) used for?
Furosemide is a diuretic and is helpful in obtaining an urine sample. It is given by injection after the blood sample has been drawn and usually will provide a urine sample in 15-20 minutes. The dose given is 1/3 of the normal therapeutic dose given to race horses. The use of furosemide is voluntary and is offered to expedite the collection of urine samples for the convenience of the exhibitor/trainer.

What prevents my horse’s samples from being mixed up with another horse’s samples?
As soon as each sample is collected, it is sealed and labeled with a unique number that is assigned only to your horse’s samples, and which remains attached to those samples from that time on.

If they ask to test my horse, how can I be sure they are from USEF?
Each testing veterinarian has USEF documents specifying the competition to be tested, and a photo ID matching the documents, which they will present to you at your request.

Who selects the horses for testing and who tests them?
The testing veterinarian selects the horse. Testing veterinarians are representatives of the USEF and will not be working for any clients at the same competition. USEF appoints its veterinarians to attend specific shows and events, and they are accompanied by a team of several technicians who collect samples.

Why is a particular horse selected?
The testing veterinarian selects horses randomly for testing. However, higher placings may be selected for testing more frequently.

Where are the samples collected?
Most often, at the horse’s own stall. Sometimes, a sample collection or “testing” stall is used.

What kinds of samples are collected and how much?
The testing veterinarian will collect a blood sample from each horse, and the technician will attempt to collect a urine sample. Several tubes of blood are taken, some are labeled A, and some are labeled B. The technician will collect as much urine as the horse will provide. The urine sample will be divided into two containers, as well, labeled A and B. Some drugs are measured or detected only in blood, and others are found only in urine. Some drugs are found in both.

What is the exhibitor, trainer, or owner responsible for?
Collected. If something accidentally touches the inside of the lid or container, for example, dirt or wood shavings, that container will not be used. The technician will replace the container with a new one before the sample is collected.

What if sample A is collected before sample B?
The testing veterinarian will collect a blood sample from each horse, and the technician will attempt to collect a urine sample. Several tubes of blood are taken, some are labeled A, and some are labeled B. The technician will collect as much urine as the horse will provide. The urine sample will be divided into two containers, as well, labeled A and B. Some drugs are measured or detected only in blood, and others are found only in urine. Some drugs are found in both.

What is the purpose of the FEI competition testing?
FEI competition testing is conducted in accordance with FEI regulations.

What about FEI competitions?
FEI competition testing is conducted in accordance with FEI regulations.

What happens if nothing forbidden is detected in the sample?
If no drugs are found, state-of-the-art confirmatory tests identify the chemical identity of the drug or medication. No finding of a forbidden substance is reported unless the test result is certain.

Is there a way I can find out the status of my horses’ test?
Yes, please go to the Federation website usef.org/barcodelookup approximately four weeks following the sample collection. Type in your horse’s Sample ID number. The sample will either be listed as “Cleared” or “Pending”.

What happens if something forbidden is detected in a sample?
The sample is available for confirmatory analysis, in the event the trainer or owner wants it tested.

How long do they have to decide whether to test sample B?
The request must be made within 15 days of the date of the notice of charge, because if too much time passes, sample B could deteriorate. Also, the testing must be done at a mutually agreed upon laboratory.

What assurance do I have that I will not wrongly be accused of violating the rules because of faulty evidence?
The entire process of the selection of horses for testing, the collection, labeling, and shipping of samples, the security under which they are kept and shipped to the laboratory, then inspected and tested, and the results verified and re-verified if necessary, has been designed to ensure the integrity and fairness of the process.

How is the equine drug program funded?
It is paid for by the $8 per entry drug testing fee with no additional cost to the competitor.
CHECKLIST
Please complete and return.

The testing veterinarian and technician identified themselves to me and told me that my horse had been selected for testing □ Yes □ No

The testing veterinarian gave me this brochure explaining the testing program □ Yes □ No

The testing veterinarian explained the testing procedures and identified the personnel collecting the blood and urine samples □ Yes □ No

The testing veterinarian or technician obtained the required USEF information from me □ Yes □ No

The testing veterinarian and technician answered any questions I had □ Yes □ No

The testing veterinarian and technician followed the procedures included in this brochure □ Yes □ No

Location of Competition
Name of Competition
Competition Number
Owner/Rider/Trainer Name
Email Address
Phone Number
Name of Horse
Date Tested
Testing Veterinarian
Technician

PROTECTING OUR MOST VALUED PARTNER
In keeping with United States Equestrian Federation’s vision, the purpose of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program is to promote safe competition, protect the fairness of competition and protect our most valued partner—the horse. USEF testing veterinarians and technicians travel all over the country, testing hundreds of competitions each year and thousands of horses. Because the testing staff can attend any USEF competition, trainers, owners, and exhibitors are encouraged to comply with the rules at all USEF shows and events. In addition to pursuing excellence and promoting sportsmanship, we know you share our goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of horses, regardless of value or competitive level, through the enforcement of fair and equitable rules and procedures.

CONTACT INFORMATION
If you have a question about the Drug Testing Program that is not satisfied by the testing veterinarian or competition official, call 800.633.2472, email medequestrian@aol.com, or write:
United States Equestrian Federation®
Equine Drugs and Medications Program
956 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212-2655
USEF.ORG

Please direct all inquiries to:
United States Equestrian Federation®
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ENSURING THE FAIRNESS AND SAFETY OF COMPETITION AND THE WELL-BEING OF HORSES