

**Ontario
Racing
Commission**

Suite 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto, Ontario
M9W 6L2
Tel 416 213-0520
Fax 416 213-7827

**Commission
des courses
de l'Ontario**

Bureau 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto (Ontario)
M9W 6L2
Tél 416 213-0520
Télééc 416 213-7827



August 26, 2009

Notice to the Industry

Warning: if used in excess, cobalt sulfate can harm your horse

The Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) advises horsepeople to be very cautious with the administration of the substance cobalt sulphate to their horses. This mineral element is a water-soluble cobalt salt with a variety of industrial and agricultural uses, including being used as an ingredient in feed and mineral supplements.

Used in safe and appropriate formulations, the substance is known to have certain blood building qualities. However, speculation about 'performance enhancing' qualities are doubtful.

According to ORC Veterinarian Supervisor Dr. Bruce Duncan, horsepeople should take suitable precautions with this substance. "When administered in appropriate quantities, there is likely very little performance benefit. And when used in excess, this element can be toxic to horses." He said that, as a general rule, horse people need to be aware of all the ingredients being administered to their animals, and an ORC licensed veterinarian should be consulted prior to introducing any new product.

The racing community is reminded that a basic aspect of good medication control is ensuring that you only use products that are properly manufactured and clearly labeled, and that have been obtained from an authorized distributor. In the case of medications, you should ensure that these have been prescribed and/or dispensed by a licensed veterinarian.

The use of medications or products that are not properly prescribed may not be in the best interest of the horse.

John L. Blakney
Executive Director