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- President-Elect of the New Zealand Equine Veterinary Association
- In veterinary practice for 27 years and in sole equine practice for 25 years
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- Involved with the air transport of horses for approximately 24 years having accompanied horses on many flights principally to the USA but also Australia, Japan and China.



Grooms travelling with horses by air or sea

**Access to Prescription Animal
Remedies**



Background

- Use of drugs on planes by untrained people has been of concern to veterinary profession for some years
- For safety of horses and people, horses may require drug treatment for restraint or pain control
- Supply of such drugs to grooms illegal
- Proposed that veterinarian accompany every flight carrying horses
- Seen as practical impossibility – not enough veterinarians available

Background

- Now industry norm that experienced professional grooms accompany horse transport flights
- With replacement of Animal Remedies Act by Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act, a period of leniency allowed time to produce an acceptable solution
- Time has run out and policing of law imminent, thus veterinary profession has developed Code of Practice and Quality Assurance Programme

Licence categories for veterinary medicines in New Zealand

- OTC (over the counter) freely available without controls eg anthelmintics
- Prescription Animal Remedies – 3 classes
 - PAR1 – require veterinary prescription and are for administration to animal only following a veterinary consultation
 - PAR2 – for administration by a vet or in presence of a vet and under vet's direct control
 - PAR3 – for administration only by a veterinarian

Prescription Animal Remedies

- PAR Class 1
Examples:
 - Antibiotics eg penicillins, gentamicin, cephalosporins, tetracycline
 - NSAIDs eg flunixin, phenylbutazone, ketoprofen
 - Other
- PAR Class 2
Examples:
 - General anaesthetics eg thiopentone, xylazine, halothane
 - Sedatives eg detomidine, xylazine
- PAR Class 3 (currently only two)
 - Fentanyl
 - Pethidine

NZ legislation

Veterinary medicine licensed under

- Animal Remedies Act 1987

Superseded by

- Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act (ACVM) 1997, which came into force on 1 July 2001

This Act (Section 28) allows for Codes of Practice

Codes of Practice under S28 ACVM Act

- Become 'tertiary legislation' ie have effect of legislation
- Require approval of Director-General of Agriculture
- Provides system that allows certain persons who are not veterinarians to be authorised to administer certain Prescription Animal Remedies under specific circumstances

Codes of Practice

Some other approved codes

- CoP for Welfare of Dogs Using Pharmacological Restraint During Police Operations
- CoP for Discretionary Use of Human and Veterinary Medicines in Animals by Registered Veterinary Academic Staff of the Massey University Veterinary Teaching Hospital
- CoP for the Use of Veterinary and Human Medicines in Research, Testing and Teaching Organisations

Use of PARs by deer farmers

- Regulation (1994) under Animal Remedies Act allows veterinarians to train farmers to use xylazine (PAR2) in deer for removal of velvet
- Expires in 2004, to be replaced by Code of Practice under ACVM Act, Section 28
- Was model for later codes including grooms code
- Scheme audited to ensure compliance
- No problems encountered
- 1500 farmers accredited to use xylazine; velvet harvested from 600,000 deer annually (mostly by farmers)

Grooms Code

- Full title:
 - Code of Practice for the Use of Prescription Animal Remedies by Grooms Travelling with Horses by Sea or Air
- Allows veterinarians to dispense PARs to grooms:
 - Veterinarians must be registered with the scheme (Supervising Veterinarians)
 - Grooms must be trained and accredited by Supervising Veterinarian
 - Only 4 drugs involved:
 - xylazine, detomidine, flunixin, ceftiofur
 - All aspects of the scheme available for audit

Quality Assurance Programme

- The Quality Assurance Programme spells out the scheme that delivers the Code
- Administered from office of NZ Veterinary Association
- Supervising Veterinarian (SV) trains groom in
 - Legal requirements
 - Storage of drugs
 - Dose calculation
 - Pharmacology
 - Administration
 - Safety aspects
 - Record keeping
- SV is responsible for assessing suitability of groom to carry out tasks

Relationship between SV and groom

- Scheme based on relationship between Supervising Veterinarian and individual groom
- SV assesses groom and must be satisfied that he/she is competent to handle drugs safely during horse transport
- SV available to groom at any time for advice, including during transport (if not able to be contacted, groom can contact any other SV registered with the scheme)

Records

- SV required to record volumes of all drugs dispensed to groom
- Groom required to record:
 - Details of each flight (no of horses, date, flight no)
 - Volume of each drug carried and by whom dispensed
 - Each administration:
 - Horse name/ID
 - Product, volume, route
 - Reason for use
 - outcome
- Before receiving more drugs, Groom must give SV reconciliation of all drug used from previous dispensing date

Audit

Internal audit

- Annual random audit of 25% of SVs
 - Will examine SV's drug dispensing records
- Annual random audit of 20% of accredited grooms
 - Will examine groom's current certificate, drug records, storage of drugs, drug usage forms and check against SV's records

External audit

- ACVM Group will conduct audit when required