



# SESSION 3

FEI Equine Anti-Doping and  
Controlled Medication Regulations





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# **Where are we today?**

## **Recap**

# Full Revision

- Last full revision was in 2020
- Dedicated Session at the 2020 FEI Sports Forum
- Full compliance with the 2021 WADA Code



# Short recap of FEI Sports Forum 2020

## Contamination

- Main feedback from NFs:  
System needs to be more flexible in relation to contamination cases.
- Key Changes in EADCMRs to deal with contamination:
  - 1) Expansion of Atypical Findings Concept
  - 2) More flexibility in relation to sanctions for contamination cases



# Acceptance of Consequences – Automatic Reductions

## Banned Substance case

- 6 months reduction of the standard 2 years
- 18 months instead of 2 years

## Controlled Medication Substance case

- 3 months reduction of the standard 6 months
- 3 months instead of 6 months

## Refusal, Tampering cases

- 6 months reduction of the standard 2 years
- 18 months instead of 2 years



# Sanctions – Base Level of Sanctions

- **2020 Sports Forum Question:** *Do you want to increase the standard level for Banned Substance cases from 2 years to 4 years to align with the WADA Code and the FEI Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes?*
  - **Big majority against increasing “base sanctions”** (currently **2 years** Banned Substances, 6 months Controlled Medications)
  - **No change** to “base sanctions”





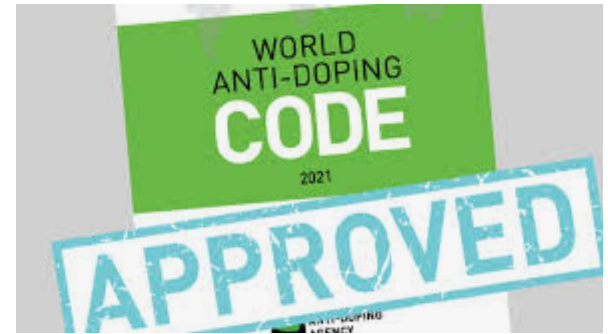
# Sanctions – Harmonised Sanctions

- 2020 Sports Forum Question: *Shall the same standard level (be it 2 years or 4 years) apply across all FEI Disciplines?*
  - Big **majority** in favour of retaining the current system whereby the **same sanctions** are imposed across **all Disciplines**.
  - No support for a special sanctioning system for Endurance
  - **No change**



# WADA

- Any changes to the EADCMRs will need to be approved by WADA
- 2027 WADA Code: Will be approved in December 2025. IFs will have 1 year to review their Rules and implement the changes.
- 2026: Additional changes may be required in the EADCMRs given the review of the WADA Code



# **Out of Competition Testing**

# Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission Report

## **Recommendation 9**

Establish and implement a process for ensuring high standards of welfare and investigating risky practices for horses when ‘outside of competition’ through establishing something similar to human athlete checks under the WADA code.

## **Recommendation 10**

Ensure the existing Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU) is trusted and supportive, and there is an effective ‘whistle-blowing’ process for dealing with all FEI related concerns/complaints concerning equine welfare in and out of competition. Empower FEI equestrians to be ‘Active Bystanders’ and to challenge bad practice when they see it.

## **Recommendation 11**

Ensure the existence of an effective ‘zero-tolerance’ policy which prevents, prohibits and punishes any practice that compromises equine welfare and safety during and outside of competition.

# Current provision in the EADCMRs

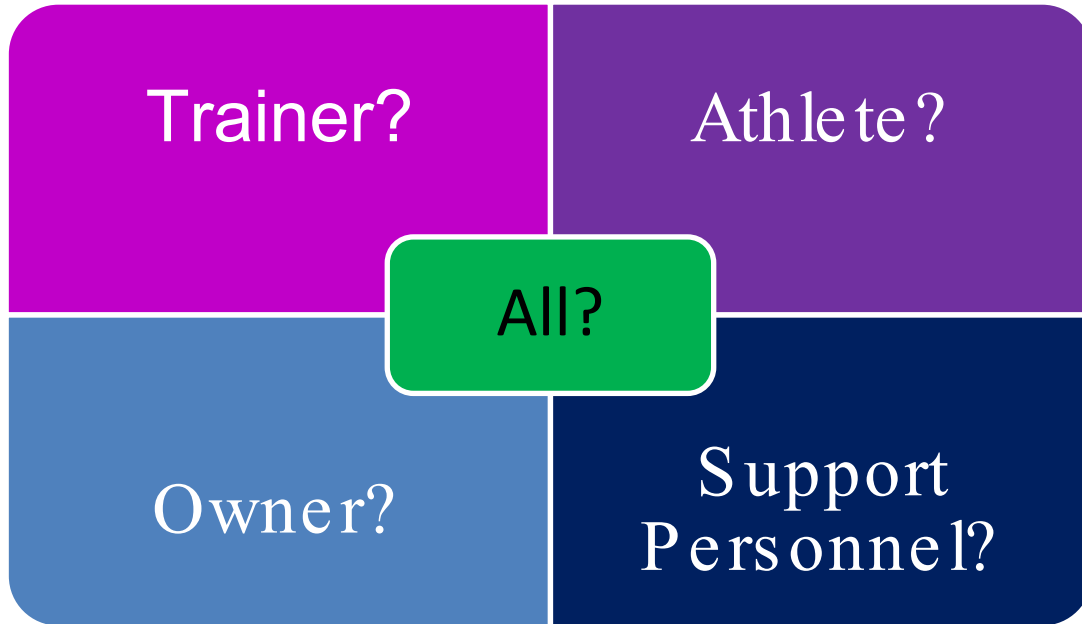
## Art. 5.1

(...)

*“All Horses registered with the FEI or a National Federation may be subject to Out-of-Competition Testing by the FEI. Nothing in these Rules shall preclude any National Federation from adopting its own Out-of-Competition Testing protocols, subject to Article 17.2.”*



# Who should be responsible?



# Who should be responsible?

In Endurance: The Trainer



In the other Disciplines?

By default, probably the Horse Owner.



Do we want to give the possibility to have another person be considered as the Person Responsible (instead of the Owner), provided that information is submitted to the FEI prior to a sampling test?

# What consequences to the Horse?

Should the Horse be suspended? Do we apply the “standard” 2 month Suspension that is already applicable for In-Competition positive cases? Or a longer period (6 months for example)?

Irish Racing Authority have up to a lifetime ban on horses that test positive for example.





# What consequences to the Horse?

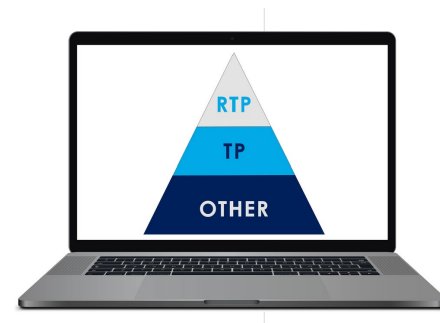
- British Horse Racing Authority (BHA):
  - **14 months suspension** from racing; and
  - **12 months mandatory stand down**,  
which shall run **concurrently**.

“**suspension from racing**” shall mean that the Horse will be suspended from running in races run under the Rules and under the British Horseracing Authority Regulations for Point-to-Point Steeple Chases and under the British Horseracing Authority Regulations for Arabian Horse Racing;

“**mandatory stand down**” shall mean that the Horse will be excluded from being registered as in training and from being stabled in any yard that is licensed by the Authority. The Horse shall however remain subject to Testing throughout the mandatory stand down period.

# Registered Testing Pools (RTP) and Testing Pools (TP)

- To include a RTP similar to the WADA system for human Athletes?
- Where an Anti-Doping Organisation has determined that it needs to conduct Out-of-Competition Testing on particular Athletes, it shall then consider how much information it needs about the whereabouts of those Athletes in order to conduct that Testing effectively and with no advance notice.



# Definitions

**Registered Testing Pool:** *“The pool of highest-priority Athletes established separately at the international level by International Federations and at the national level by National Anti-Doping Organizations, who are subject to focused In-Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing as part of that International Federation's or National Anti-Doping Organization's test distribution plan and therefore are required to provide whereabouts information as provided in Article 5.5 and the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.”*

**Testing Pool:** *“The tier below the Registered Testing Pool which includes Athletes from whom some whereabouts information is required in order to locate and Test the Athlete Out-of-Competition.”*

# Authority to test and possibility to enter private properties/stables



- In Racing: Trainers' yards are usually licensed and which as a condition require them to give the Racing Authority access to test the horses
- Others have agreements with the Athletes where they give access to their stables

# FEI HorseApp

Download the FEI HorseApp now!





**IHRB** | Irish Horseracing  
Regulatory Board

## Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control Programme

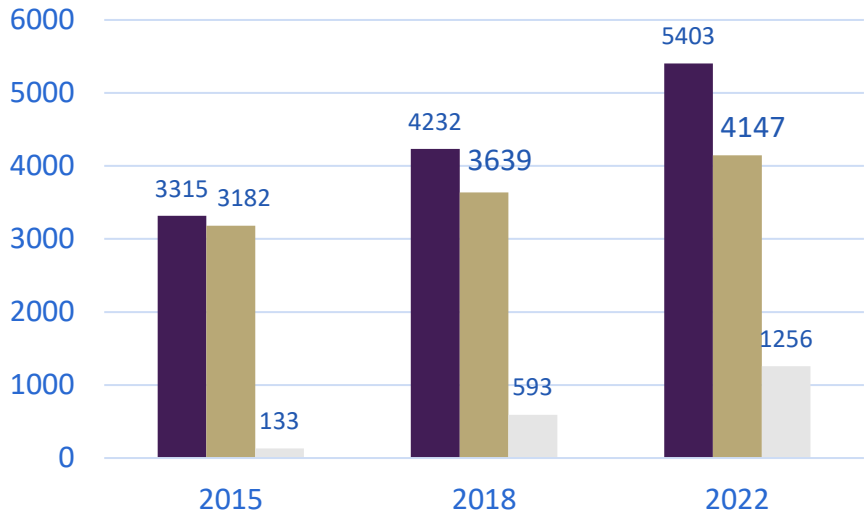
## Out of Competition Testing

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# Importance of OOC in IHRB's Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control



**Total Samples** (63% increase)   **In Competition Samples** (30% increase)   **Out of Competition Samples** (>800% increase)

## Key Timeline

- 2018**
  - Establishment of IHRB
  - Partnership with LGC for independent testing
  - Industry wide Anti-doping Policy
- 2020**
  - Covid 19
  - Digitized the sampling process
- 2021**
  - 12 IHRB granted 'Authorised Officer Status
  - Authority to sample 'any Thoroughbred in any place at anytime'
- 2022**
  - Dr. Craig Suann report
  - Meet international best practice, more can be done



2023	RACEDAY				POINT TO POINT	OUT OF COMPETITION			TOTAL SAMPLES	AAFs
	URINE	BLOOD	HAIR	PRE-RACE	BLOOD	URINE	BLOOD	HAIR		
January	144	33	1	0	54	0	58	58	348	1
February	126	40	18	25	90	1	150	150	600	1
March	172	28	11	86	98	0	46	46	487	1
April	219	55	1	55	124	0	26	26	506	2
May	241	48	25	42	72	0	23	97	548	0
June	229	48	0	60	0	0	9	56	402	0
July	253	51	30	45	0	0	36	36	451	0
August	263	60	2	74	0	0	25	25	449	0
September	268	64	26	46	0	0	25	25	454	0
October	211	50	10	89	60	0	51	45	516	0
November	195	45	4	26	66	0	50	50	436	0
December	187	47	2	8	38	0	245	142	669	1
JUL - DEC	1,377	317	74	288	164	0	432	323	2,975	1
2023 TOTAL	2,508	569	130	556	602	1	744	756	5,866	6

'Not just  
about the  
numbers'

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Investigations at first sign

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Intelligent use of different matrices

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Depth and breadth of detection

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Initiation of Improvement Notice  
approach

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Continual review

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All activity coupled with measures on  
equine welfare and safety

Phenylbutazone – wrong horse treated  
Triamcinolone acetonide – short withdrawal, confusion with stand-down, complex sites  
Omeprazole – close to/day of race  
Fluticasone – too close to race  
Tetramisole – too close to race  
DIPA – too close to race (supplement)  
Cobalt – vitamin B12 too close to race/salt blocks on day  
Arsenic – unintended consequence of seaweed  
Testosterone – ovarian tumour  
Cetirizine - human use  
Dexamethasone – ‘home-made’ throat wash containing it  
Dex/TCA – too close to race, complex joint  
Lidocaine – too close to race  
Clenbuterol – given in error to horse in training  
Salbutamol – too close to race  
Oxazepam – insufficient withdrawal  
MDMA – human cross-contamination  
Nandrolone – vet administered in error  
Flufenamate – topical administration  
Gabapentin – canine cross contamination  
Dantrolene – too close to race/accumulation  
Meloxicam – too close to race  
Venlafaxine – human medication error

2021/22 OOCT Adverse Analytical Findings

Trendione – altrenogest (blood)

Clenbuterol (hair)

Methyltestosterone/methandienone (hair)

# Key to OOCT

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Strategic approach to Horse selection – risk,  
HSR/HP

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Access to Horse at right time – IHRB Authorised  
Officers under legislation and traceability

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Trained, expert staff

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Effective inspection

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Right matrices, logistics, analysis

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Responsible person – especially when unlicensed

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Effective disciplinary process/sanction

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Review and refinement

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Any Questions?

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# **Special Procedure for Minors for Controlled Medication**

# Special Procedure for Minors for Controlled Medication

Today: We only have a Special Procedure for Minors for **Banned Substance** cases.

## Consequences:

- **Disqualification** of the Results
- **2 month** suspension on **the Minor**
- **2 month** suspension for **the Horse**
- A Fine of CHF 1'500
- Costs of CHF 1'000 (CHF 2'000 if B Sample is requested)

# Special Procedure for Minors for Controlled Medication

**Today:** There is no Special Procedure for Minors for Controlled Medication

## **Current Consequences:**

- Disqualification of the Results
- **6 month suspension** as the starting point
- Suspension can be reduced if it's established that there is No (Significant) Fault/Negligence
- A Fine of **CHF 3'000-5'000** if no reduction of the suspension
- A Fine of **CHF 1'000-3'000** if reduction based on No Significant Fault/Negligence
- Costs of CHF 1'000- 10'000 if no reduction (CHF 1'000-3'000 if reduction of suspension)



# Special Procedure for Minors for Controlled Medication

**Proposal:** To include a Special Procedure for Minors for **Controlled Medication** cases.

Proposed Consequences:

- Disqualification of the Results
- **1 month** suspension on the Minor
- A **Fine of CHF 500**
- **Costs of CHF 500** (CHF 1'500 if B Sample is requested)

# **Administrative Procedure (Fast Track) for Endurance Trainers**



# Administrative Procedure (Fast Track)

- Disqualification of the Person Responsible and the Horse from the whole Event and forfeiture of all prizes and prize money won at the Event;
- A Fine of CHF 1,500; and
- Costs of CHF 1,000 (CHF 2'000 if a B Sample analysis is requested).

# Today

In Endurance, the registered Trainer shall be considered as additional Person Responsible and held additionally responsible for any presence of a Controlled Medication/Banned Substance (Articles 2.1 of the EAD Rules and the ECM Rules).

If a Sample is positive to 1 Controlled Medication and it's the first time offence, the Athlete (the Person Responsible) is eligible to the Administrative Procedure.

However, the **Trainer is NOT eligible** to the Administrative Procedure.

Therefore there are 2 different procedures with 2 difference outcomes.

# Proposal

Equal Treatment to both the Athlete and the Trainer and **to offer the Administrative Procedure to both of them.**

It would **avoid separate proceedings** and discrepancies in the process.

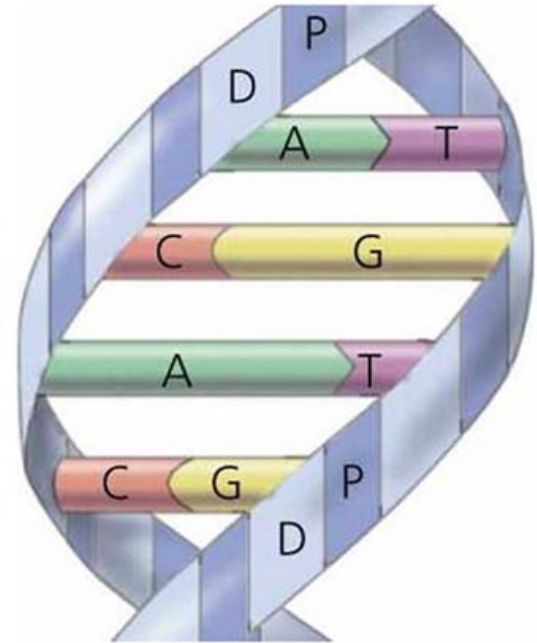
For the same presence of a positive sample to 1 Controlled Medication for first time offenders, the Athlete and the Trainer do not need to have their case dealt with by the FEI Tribunal and do not need to establish the source of the Controlled Medication.

If the Trainer is not eligible to the Administrative Procedure, the starting point is a suspension of 6 months (it can be reduced if they establish No (Significant) Fault/Negligence). Burden to establish the source is difficult.

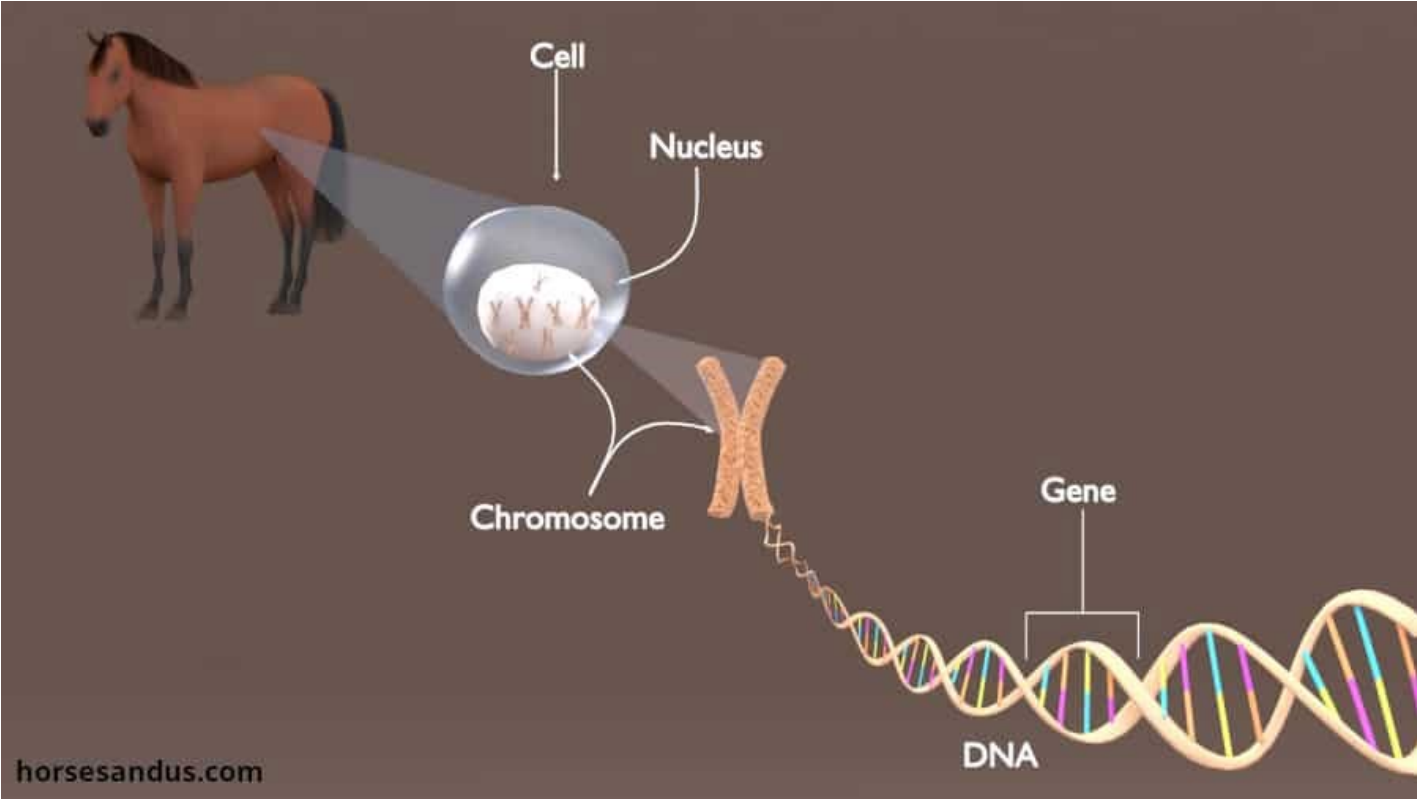
# **Gene Doping and Cloning**

# What is Gene Doping?

- Manipulation of genes and/or cells using foreign genetic material e.g. DNA/RNA
- Purpose: enhance athletic performance
- Applied to: adults, youngstock & embryos



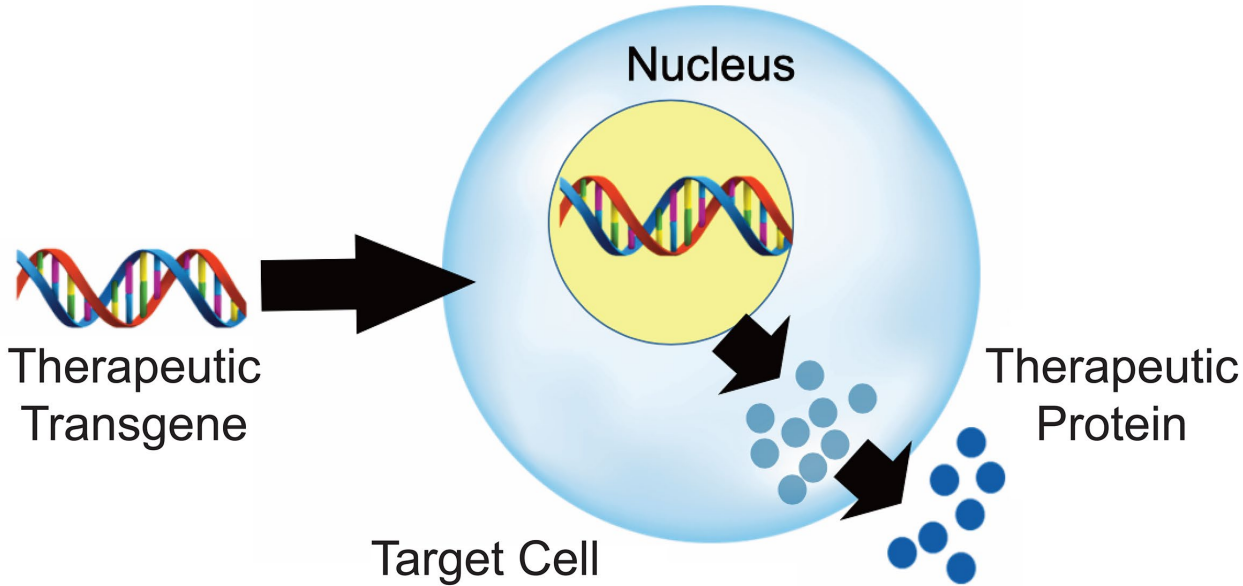
# Cells, DNA & Genes





# How are genes & cells manipulated?

Administration of genetic material (transgene)



# How are genes & cells manipulated?

Gene editing: insert, delete, modify or replace a specific DNA sequence

Genome editing: applicable to entire DNA



“Molecular scissors” cut sequence for editing

# Potential Effects

Brain: Increase  
pain threshold

Bone Marrow:  
Increase red blood  
cells and oxygen  
delivery to tissue



Muscles: Mass & strength

Joints: Faster  
healing of injuries

# Gene Doping Risks

- Welfare
- Ethics
- Level playing field
- Public acceptance
- Rapid scientific advances



Science History Institute  
Museum & Library

‘The Death of Jesse Gelsinger,  
20 Years Later’

Science

‘New animal study raises  
concerns about high-dose gene  
therapy’



ASH Clinical News®

‘Recent gene therapy deaths  
raise safety concerns’

# Cloning

Cloning

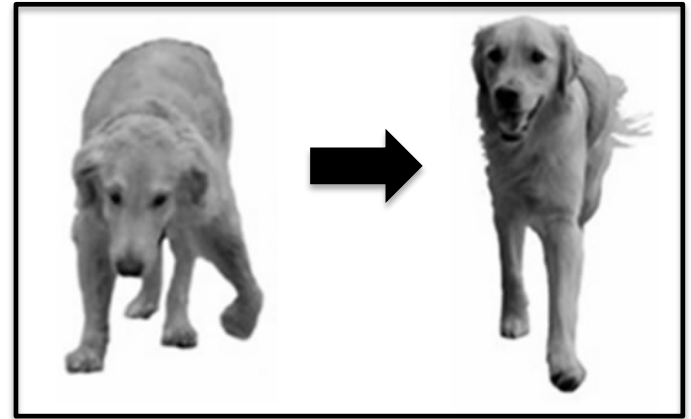
Making an identical copy of an individual



vs

Gene Doping

Manipulating an individual's genes and/or cells



# Rule Proposal

## Gene Doping

- Already prohibited
- Include provisions in the rules for gene doping testing
- List permitted practices e.g. mRNA vaccines
- Implementation of best practice

# **Hair & Fluids Samples**

# EEWBC Survey – concerns addressed

- The other 23h
- Horses competing with substances masking clinical signs of lameness and physiological parameters such as heart rate



FEI proposes upgrading of the EADCMP



# Introduce hair as testing matrix?

- Hair testing complements blood and urine analysis as it prolongs the detection window with several months
- Established method within horseracing
- Segments are analysed for BANNED substances
- Possible to determine if a positive finding is due to long-term therapeutic use and acute exposure.



# Introduce saliva as testing matrix ?

## Problem:

Micro-dosed quickly eliminated drugs, e.g. heart rate lowering substances in Endurance, are often not detected in post competition testing

## Solution:

Saliva sampling would allow non-invasive testing during competition e.g. Vet Gate in Endurance



# **Cocktail of Controlled Medications**

# Lower reporting level for cocktail administration

## Problem

Substances with the same/similar/synergetic or masking effect are each administered in a lower dose to avoid exceeding the reporting level. The combined effect may mask clinical signs of lameness etc.

## Solution

In the presence of more than one drug with the same/similar/synergetic or masking effect, the reporting level is decreased by 50%.

## Benchmarks

Horseracing – reporting level will not be applied. Any such finding is considered a positive

# **Removal of two-stage notifications**

# Two-stage notifications

## Today:

The notification of an anti-doping violation is done in two stages:

- The Notification Letter of an alleged violation of the EADCMRs
- The Notice of Charge



# Two-stage notifications

After the Notification Letter, the PR has 20 days to provide their explanations to the alleged violations.

Thereafter, if the FEI is still satisfied that the PR has committed the rule violation, the PR is formally charged.

PRs are confused with the two-stage notifications and in the end, in 99% of the cases a Notice of Charge is ultimately sent.

**Proposal:** To have only one Notification Letter. The PR keeps the same rights to be heard and to provide explanations, evidence, etc. The aim is to simplify the process.

# **Pony Measurement Session – Consequences of Positive Sample**



# Proposal

Pony Measurement is subject to testing and it is considered as in-Competition.

To clearly state in the Rules who is the Person Responsible in case of a positive sample.

We currently notify the Owner.



# Proposal

To specify what are the consequences on the pony measurement, especially if the pony was measured out.

Current provision: it may, at the discretion of the FEI, lead to the invalidation of the results of the relevant Pony Measurement

If we were to invalidate such measurement, what does it mean in terms of re-measurement?

Current provision: It can be re-measured once the same year at another Measuring Session, and once a year in the two following consecutive years. In total it may be measured 4 times in 3 consecutive years.

# Other Topics?

# Questions?