USPA Polo Pony Welfare Guidelines
(A Resource for USPA Clubs and Members)

As advised by the USPA Equine Welfare Committee

Based on the Myopia Equine Welfare Committee’s Polo Pony Welfare Guidelines
Dear Fellow Players and Friends,

We would like to thank Cissie Snow and her Polo Pony Welfare group at Myopia Polo Club for this booklet concerning Club Polo Pony Welfare Guidelines. Myopia has generously allowed us to create this version so that all of our USPA Clubs can benefit from this useful guide.

We are thankful as well to the chairman, Chuck Weaver, and CEO, Peter Rizzo, for their support. We would also like to recognize and thank the Equine Welfare Committee who participated and are listed below.

Over the last 20 years, we have tried to grow the USPA’s knowledge and practice of equine welfare. We hope that this booklet will help to bring this knowledge and practice of equine welfare a little closer to home for all of us, and to provide ongoing useful information, as well.

We welcome your continuing thoughts and suggestions, for it is this entrepreneurial spirit that brought this booklet into being and is a major key to our growth and understanding of polo pony welfare.

Thanks always for your support.  
Sincerely,  

**Clint Nangle**  
USPA Governor and Chairman of the Equine Welfare Committee

Thank you to those included in creating this book:  
Clint Nangle  
Lindsay Dolan  
Mark Sedacca  
Cissie Snow  
Margie Paur  
Dr. Josh Hall  
Dr. Bill Patterson

Thank you so much to all the concerned and knowledgeable equestrians who frequent our polo games for recognizing the need for communication and education in our horse community. As in all endeavors of this sort, there are many to thank. First and foremost are all the horses who love to play the sport of polo. Second is the person who gave them the loudest voice, Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld as well as our Myopia Polo Captain, Franz Colloredo-Mansfeld, who gave us free rein to pursue this passion. And last but not least, Ray Denis, who brought clarity and experience to our table.

MPEWC members:  
Peter Poor- Northeast Circuit Governor  
David Strouss- Attorney  
Tracy Strouss

The Advisory Board:  
Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld  
Bryan Parrott, DVM  
Cathy Taylor  
C.J.Brown  
Ray Denis- Consultant

Many thanks also to Myopia Polo for providing us all with such a beautiful venue!  

**Cissie Snow**  
Chairperson of the MPEWC

Special Thanks to our Copy Editor - Steven Rizzo
Equine Welfare Guidelines

The following polo pony welfare guidelines are current rules taken from the United States Polo Association By-Laws, Constitution, Rules of Outdoor and Arena Polo, Rules Interpretations, Tournament Conditions and Umpire Guide.

Code:
gray background = USPA Rule Interpretations or Examples
underline with italics = Equine Welfare Committee Interpretations or Examples

The United States Polo Association (USPA) has established the following Code of Conduct for all Member Clubs and Individuals:

1. Always respect the game and all USPA rules and tournament conditions.
2. Always respect your teammates, opponents and officials.
3. Always demonstrate good sportsmanship.
4. Always consider the welfare of the horses.
5. Always respect the club and the club facilities
6. Always compete without the use of drugs or alcohol.
7. Always compete to win.

Code of Conduct, Part 2: Equine Welfare Committee Interpretation...Always respect your teammates, opponents, officials and mounts.

United States Polo Association
Outdoor Rules - Teams, Players, Substitutes, Equipment, Mounts and Mounts’ Equipment

Part 4. Equipment
C- Sharp spurs, protruding buckles, or studs on a player’s boots or knee guards are not allowed.

Part 5. Mounts
A- A mount is a horse or pony of any breed or size.
B- A mount blind in one eye may not be played.
C- A mount showing vice, or not under proper control, shall be removed from the game.
D- No mount shall be played in any event for more than one team. Unlike many other penalties which an Umpire may elect not to exact, the penalty for violation of this rule must be exacted if a Referee, an Umpire, or a member of the Tournament Committee is notified of or otherwise becomes aware of the likelihood of the violation prior to 24 hours after the violation took place.
E- A mount may be removed from the game if there is blood in its mouth, or on its flanks, or anywhere on a horse’s body.
F- A mount found to be improperly conditioned may be removed from the game.
G- Whip and spurs may not be used unnecessarily or excessively, such as:
   (1) Slash whipping – loud repeated strokes
   (2) Over whipping – in excess of three strokes or when mount is laboring.
   (3) Heavy whipping – following a missed play.
H- No player may intentionally strike a mount with any part of the mallet.
5. Mounts F, G, H...United States Polo Association Interpretation: The Mandate is that Umpires are to take positive action to protect players and the sport from the perception of animal abuse. The Umpires must award a Penalty, which not only penalizes the fouling side, but recognizes any advantage the fouled side lost when the play was stopped.

If, in the opinion of the Umpire(s), a mount is deemed physically unfit from exhaustion, distress, lameness, excessive sweating and/or laboring in breathing the Umpires may remove the mount for the remainder of the chukker or the entire game.

If any player abuses a mount, play should be stopped immediately and the appropriate penalty awarded.

In the case of visible blood, time should be called when play is next stopped. The player may have up to 5 minutes to clean up the mount or change. If the wound continues to bleed, the mount shall be ordered off the field. The mount may return to the game later, if its condition permits.

5. Mounts F: a mount found to be improperly conditioned may relate to the underweight or overweight condition of mount as assessed by the Equine Welfare Representative.

5. Mounts G: Equine Welfare Committee Defines as: being applied from the time when the polo pony arrives on the polo grounds, during the game, and following the game, until the polo pony leaves the grounds.

5. Mounts H: Intentionally and/or maliciously striking a mount with any part of the mallet specifically includes, however is not limited to, hitting the horse behind the saddle or head or neck with any part of the mallet.

Part 6. Mounts Equipment

A- Shoes with an outer rim, toe grab, screws or frost nails are not allowed. Dull heel calks are allowed on hind shoes only. The calks can either be fixed or removable (screw-in), and should be dull, without sharp edges and no greater than one inch from the sole surface of the shoe to the ground surface.

B- Blinkers or shadow rolls are not allowed.

C- Protection of the pony by boots or bandages will be used on the front legs and is recommended on the hind legs.

D-

Part 6 A – United States Polo Association Interpretation

Screw-in, removable calks are preferred

Part 21. How Play Is Interrupted

F- Fallen or Injured Mount

(1) If a mount falls or is injured, the Umpire shall stop the game immediately.

(2) A player whose mount has fallen may change to another mount within 5 minutes. The fallen mount may be returned to the game.

(3) A player whose mount has been injured shall change to another mount within 5 minutes. A mount removed due to injury may not return to the game.

5- How Play Is Interrupted... United States Polo Association Interpretation: B – Fouls involving safety of player or mount should be called at the instant they occur.
Examples: After a particularly hard bump, Blue No. 3 asks for time out to check his mount. The mount trots out sound, Blue No. 3 remounts and play continues. If Blue No. 3 elects to change mounts, the time out will be extended, but the mount may not return to the game.

Red No. 3’s mount falls after a collision. The Umpire’s whistle should sound immediately. Red No. 3 may trot out the horse and remount or change. If he elects to change the mount may return to the game.

Blue No. 2’s mount is tired after a long run. If Blue requests time out to change, the mount may not return to the game. If Blue changes as the game proceeds, the mount may be played later.

5. How Play is Interrupted - Equine Welfare Committee Interpretation... it is recommended that a predetermined horse trailer or, when available, a fully equipped equine ambulance with trained personnel should be on site during all USPA competitions.

Part 26. Dangerous Riding

On even terms, a player may ride off an opponent or may interpose the player’s mount between an opponent and the ball, but may not ride dangerously, as for example:

A- Riding off in a manner dangerous to a player or mount; i.e. undue force. What is considered a dangerous ride off is left to the discretion of the Umpire. Whenever a mount is knocked off balance, whether it falls or not, a dangerous ride off has occurred, and the mere fact that some of the dangerous factors listed were absent does not mean that a foul should not be called. The following factors, among others, should be taken into consideration:

1. Relative speeds of the two mounts. It is very dangerous to ride off an opponent if you are not moving at approximately the same speed, whether it be fast or slow.
2. Relative sizes of the two mounts.
3. Relative positions of the two mounts. It is dangerous if either mount is more than a foot or two ahead of or behind the other.
4. The angle at which the mounts converge. At high speeds, angles which might be safe at slower speeds become extremely dangerous.
5. States of exhaustion of mounts involved.
6. Lack of readiness of an opponent for the ride off (blind-siding)

B- Zigzagging in front of another player riding at a gallop.

C- Pulling or sliding across or over a mount’s fore or hind legs in such a manner as to risk tripping either mount.

D- Riding an opponent across or into the Right of Way of another player at an unsafe distance.

E- Exhibiting a lack of consideration for safety on the part of a player for the player, player’s mount, or for another player or mount.

F- Two players of the same team riding off an opponent at the same time, whether or not being on the Right of Way. However, it is not necessarily a foul for a player to hook or strike an opponent’s mallet while the opponent is being ridden off by a teammate of the player hooking or striking.

G- Riding at an opponent in such a manner as to intimidate and cause the opponent to pull out or miss the stroke although no entry or cross of the Right of Way actually occurs.

H- Deliberately riding one’s mount into the stroke of another player. For the purpose of this Rule, a “dribble,” in which the mallet head is not raised above the mount’s hock or knee, is not considered a “stroke.”
26. **Dangerous Riding -A... United States Polo Association Interpretation:** A legal ride off is performed without displacing the opponent with a forceful blow or jolt. All factors should be taken into consideration when determining a dangerous riding violation, including defining the aggressor. The foul should be called against the aggressor, regardless of which mount is knocked off balance.

Examples:
- Blue No. 3 hits a long shot down field to Blue No. 2. As Blue No. 2 races to hit the ball, red No. 3, coming to the line of the ball from Blue’s left, engages at a high speed and at an angle. As Red collides with Blue shoulder to shoulder, Blue’s mount is staggered from the force of contact. The combination of speed and angle created the danger. Foul Red, as he was the aggressor.
- Red and Blue meet shoulder to shoulder, at a steep angle and high speed. Both horses are staggered by the impact. The Umpire, if unable to determine the aggressor, should nevertheless stop play and bowl the ball in.

26. **Dangerous Riding – E... United States Polo Association Interpretation:** Any careless or deliberate act which unnecessarily endangers an individual or mount, including the player and the player’s own mount, constitutes a violation of this rule.

Examples:
- Blue No. 3 dribbles a Penalty 4 toward the goal, hoping to draw a foul on an opposing Red player. In doing so, he finds himself wide of goal with the goal mouth blocked by teammates and opponents. Blue hits a very hard shot into the pack of players hoping to get lucky and score. Foul Blue. This is a careless and deliberate act which endangers players standing properly in the goal mouth.

**Part 27. Rough or Abusive Play**

B- No player may physically abuse another player or the player’s own or another player’s mount.

Examples:
- White No. 3 places his mallet in front of Blue No. 2’s horse’s head to impede Blue’s horse. In Blue’s attempt to make a play, he strikes White’s mallet with the butt of his mallet. The Umpires blow the whistle and announce an offsetting foul, but elect to sit both players down for the remainder of the chukker, with no substitutions. This type of unsportsmanlike conduct will not warrant being ejected for the remainder of the game.

**Part 28. Improper Use Of Mallet**

B- No player may reach immediately over and across or under and across any part of an opponent’s mount to hit at the ball, nor hit into or among the legs of an opponent’s mount.

C- No player may use the mallet in a manner which is dangerous or abusive to any other individual or to the player’s own or another player’s mount.

28. **Improper Use Of Mallet-C... United States Polo Association Interpretation:** Each player is responsible for his or her mallet at all times. The mallet shall not be used in a dangerous or abusive manner whether in the act of hooking or hitting at the ball. The player should be held accountable for the use of his or her mallet, unless another player is clearly at fault by riding into the stroke.

Examples:
Red and Blue ride parallel, but not in contact toward the ball. Blue prepares for a neck shot and strikes Red’s mount on the downswing. Foul Blue – Red was safely positioned before the stroke began. Blue has a right to hit the ball straight forward or backward, but does not have the right for his mallet to take up both sides of the line when the defender is riding parallel.

Part 36. Specific Penalties
Penalty No. 8
The mount is ordered off the field by the Umpire and disqualified from being played again during the game. If a mount is ordered off the field for infringement of Rule 6, after removal of the offense, the mount may be allowed to play provided the game is not delayed.

For a Copy of the USPA Rulebook, please contact:
Lindsay Dolan
ldolan@uspolo.com
State Law Information

For information on your state’s animal cruelty laws, go to:


Example:

Oklahoma
OK State Title 21: 1685 et seq.
Cruelty to animals is defined as: “overdrive, overload, torture, destroy or kill, or cruelly beat or injure, maim or mutilate, any animal in subjugation or captivity, whether wild or tame, and whether belonging to himself or to another, or deprive any such animal of necessary food, drink or shelter, or who shall cause, procure or permit, or who shall willfully set on foot, instigate, engage in, or in any way further any act of cruelty to any animal.” This is a Felony with a fine up to $5,000, or imprisonment in a county jail for up to one year, or imprisonment in a state penitentiary for up to 5 years. Abandoning an animal or cruelty in transit is a Misdemeanor with a fine of $100 to $500, and/or imprisonment up to 1 year. In addition, the person may be required to pay for cost of care and boarding of the victimized animal, There are no exemptions
Heatstroke is a potentially deadly condition that can come on suddenly with little warning. Heatstroke occurs when heat production outpaces heat loss. A horse's normal temperature is 100 to 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures beyond 103.5 challenge his metabolic processes. Beyond 105 degrees, he may show signs of subtle uncoordination or lack precision and regularity in his paces. He may be fretful and irritable, less attentive and sluggishly in his work. If his temperature stays over 105 for longer than a few minutes, a horse's sweating mechanism starts to shut down, and he loses interest in eating and drinking. All that internal heat dulls his brain's cognitive functions, leading to disorientation. If his temperature is not brought down within five to 10 minutes, or if it rises to 108 or beyond, the horse likely will collapse, suffer convulsions and die. At temperatures over 111.2 degrees, tissues can literally break down.

Heat production even during gentle exercise can increase by 10 to 20 times over resting values. Sprinting results in an increase of 40 to 50 times over resting values. At work levels of 150 heartbeats per minute, a horse's temperature will go up 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit every three minutes.

Working your horses in a steamy climate significantly increases their susceptibility to heatstroke. High humidity compromises the evaporative process because up to two-thirds of the heat-releasing sweat will roll off of the horse's body before it can evaporate and cool the horse. This means efficient sweating is not always synonymous with efficient cooling. The following rule of thumb has been devised as a guide. If the sum of the temperature and humidity is:

- Less than 130 - no problem;
- Greater than 150 - use caution, especially if the humidity is greater than half of the total;
- Greater than 180 - use extreme caution, since normal cooling is almost ineffectual and horses may resort to panting.
A horse will perform normally until overheated. But during a game if your horse refuses to go on, dismount and begin treatment for heatstroke immediately. Other heat stroke symptoms your horse may exhibit are poor gum color, greatly increased pulse and respiration rates and extremely elevated temperature (106-110 degrees Fahrenheit). In this condition, horses will often be weak and disoriented and may kick, strike or collapse.

If you are faced with a heatstroke emergency do the following:

· Sponge your horse or douse him with as much cold water as you can, concentrating on his head, neck and legs.

· Keep the horse walking for as long as he's able, and get him in the shade, even if you have to create it yourself with a makeshift awning.

· If there is a breeze, stand him in it; if not, create one by flapping a towel or blanket.

· Force the heat out of his muscles by pumping them manually. This literally squeezes the blood back into circulation to be cooled at the skin surface.

· Call a veterinarian immediately.

Do not let summer's heat and humidity wilt your string. Remember these tips to keep your ponies competitive during this season's dog days:

· Exercise caution when the sum of heat and humidity exceeds 150. Do not take chances.

· Dismount immediately if your pony refuses to go on.

· Be sure there is plenty of water at the picket lines. Keep an eye on the ponies until they are completely cooled out.

They may seem okay after a chukker, only to collapse later.
USPA EQUINE DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS RULES

1. PERMITTED DRUGS
The following classes of drugs are allowed to be administered to polo horses without penalty.

(1) Antibiotics, with the exception of penicillin procaine
(2) Dewormers
(3) Hormonal therapies
(4) Anti-Ulcer medications

[USPA Comment: The USPA neither supports nor condones excessive dosages and / or introduction of non-therapeutic levels of the Permitted Drug and / or vitamins and minerals for performance-enhancing purposes. See, e.g., Rule 5.2.e below. Owners and Players are urged to consult their veterinarians for proper dosage levels consistent with these Rules.]

2. RESTRICTED-USE DRUGS

2.1. The following drugs are allowed at the following Allowable Blood and Urine Levels and therefore do not require a USPA Medication Report Form 1 (Therapeutic Drug Use Form).

[USPA Comment: The Maximum Dosage and Latest Administration Hour Guidelines below are for informational purposes only, but are based on scientific evidence that a sampled horse will generally fall within normal testing ranges. However, each horse is different and therefore Owners, Players and other parties responsible under these Rules are advised to consult with a licensed Veterinarian before using these Restricted Drugs.

NOTE FURTHER that Restricted Levels in Blood indicated on the Rule 2.1 Chart below are INCLUDED in Rule 2.1 and therefore any horse testing in excess of those Allowable Levels will subject the responsible parties under these Rules to a charge of a Conduct Violation].
## Rule 2.1 Chart

RESTRICTED MEDICATION ALLOWABLE BLOOD AND LEVELS and 
RESTRICTED MEDICATION DOSE AND TIME GUIDELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication (Generic Name)</th>
<th>Medication (Trade Name)</th>
<th>Max Dosage per lb of body weight</th>
<th>Latest Administration Hour</th>
<th>Administration Method</th>
<th>Max allowed blood permitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dexamethasone</td>
<td>Azlum®</td>
<td>2.0 mg/100 lb (20mg/1000lb)</td>
<td>&gt;12 hours</td>
<td>IV, IM</td>
<td>&lt;3.0 micrograms/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5 mg/100 lb (5.0 mg/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;6 hours</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.1 mg/100 lb (1.0 mg/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;6 hours</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diclofenac</td>
<td>Surpass ®</td>
<td>5 inch ribbon, ½ inch thick</td>
<td>&gt;12 hours</td>
<td>Topical, 2 doses each 12 hours apart</td>
<td>&lt;0.005 micrograms/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firocoxib</td>
<td>EquioXX®</td>
<td>0.1 mg/kg (0.0455 mg/lb) (45.5 mg/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;12 hours</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>&lt;0.240 micrograms/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phenylbutalone</td>
<td>Butazolidin®</td>
<td>2.0 mg/lb (2.0 g/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;12 hours</td>
<td>Oral, IV</td>
<td>&lt;15.0 micrograms/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.0 mg/lb (1.0 g/1000 lb)</td>
<td>AM &amp; PM Feed</td>
<td>Oral, 2 doses each day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flucoxime Meglumine</td>
<td>Banamine®</td>
<td>0.5 mg/lb (500 mg/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;12 hours</td>
<td>Oral, IV</td>
<td>&lt;1.0 micrograms/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketoprofen</td>
<td>Ketofen®</td>
<td>1.0 mg/lb (1.0 g/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;4 hours, but &gt;6 hours recommended</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>&lt;0.250 micrograms/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meclofenamic Acid</td>
<td>Arquel®</td>
<td>0.5 mg/lb (500 mg/1000 lb)</td>
<td>Oral, 2 doses each day, 12 hours apart</td>
<td>&lt;2.5 micrograms/ml</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naproxen</td>
<td>Naprosyn®</td>
<td>4.0 mg/lb (4.0 g/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;12 hours</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>&lt;40.0 micrograms/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methocarbamol</td>
<td>Robaxin®</td>
<td>5.0 mg/lb (5.0 g/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;6 hours</td>
<td>Oral, IV, 2 doses each day, 12 hours apart</td>
<td>&lt;4.0 micrograms/ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isoxuprine</td>
<td>Isoxuprine</td>
<td>0.5 mg/lb (300 mg/1000 lb)</td>
<td>&gt;12 hours</td>
<td>Oral, 2 doses each day, 12 hours apart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2. The maximum treatment time for any of the above permitted medications is 5 days, with the exceptions of diclofenac and firocoxib. Diclofenac may be administered for 10 successive days and firocoxib may be administered for 14 successive days.

[USPA Comment: Caution is urged when using compounded medications with varying administration routes not specified above. Only the above administration routes with non-compounded medications have been evaluated for the dose and time recommendations.]

2.3. Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs.

2.3.1. A horse may not be administered more than one permitted Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) during any one 7 day time period.
2.3.2. If an additional NSAID has been administered more than 12 hours prior to competition for a therapeutic reason, and therefore falls under the Therapeutic Drug Use provision (Rule 3), then a **USPA Medication Report Form 1**, indicating the use of the additional NSAID, must be filed and received by the USPA prior to the USPA event in which the horse will next appear.

**[USPA Comment: Whenever administering a NSAID, any additional NSAID should not be administered during the 7 days prior to the next competition in which the horse is competing.]**

### 3. THERAPEUTIC DRUG USE

3.1. Any drug administered **at least 12 hours** prior to the competition for a medically and scientifically valid therapeutic purpose must: (1) be administered by a Veterinarian licensed in the specific State within the United States wherein the USPA event occurs; and (2) requires that a **USPA Medication Report Form 1** be submitted by the owner or his or her representative to explain the presence of medications that may later appear on a Drug Test Screen.

3.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing Rule 3.1, the following drugs may be administered at the following dose and time limits and do require that a **USPA Medication Report Form 1** be submitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Time Limit</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dantrolene</td>
<td>Dantrium®</td>
<td>800 mg</td>
<td>&gt; 3 hours</td>
<td>Oral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furosemide</td>
<td>Salix®</td>
<td>&lt;= 250 mg</td>
<td>&gt; 3 hours</td>
<td>IV or IM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. EMERGENCY TREATMENT EXCEPTION

4.1. Minor injuries occurring before a competition, such as scrapes or lacerations, may be treated by a licensed Veterinarian. An **Authorization of Emergency Treatment** of Lacerations Form (**USPA Medication Form 2**) must be filed with the USPA indicating all medications used in such treatment.

4.2. In the event emergency treatment occurs immediately before or during the horse appearing in competition, **Form 2** must be submitted to the USPA, signed and dated by the Treating Veterinarian, within 24 hours of that treatment.

**[USPA Comment: The submission of Forms 1 or 2 is not intended to create a “free pass” to a positive test of samples taken from a horse. In assessing whether a violation of these Rules has occurred, the USPA will consider the entire factual and medical context surrounding the administration of the treatment reported in Form 1 or 2, including but not limited to the reason for the treatment and the necessity of the type and amount of drug or medication utilized.]**

### 5. PROHIBITED DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES
5.1. All other drug classes not specifically permitted herein these Rules are prohibited, including stimulants, depressants, corticosteroids (other than Restricted Use of dexamethasone), and psychotropic drugs.

5.2. For the purpose of this Rule 5, a “Prohibited Drug or Substance” is:

5.2.1. Any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, psychotropic (mood and/or behavior altering) substance, or drug which might affect the performance of a horse (stimulants and/or depressants are defined as substances which stimulate or depress the cardiovascular, respiratory or central nervous systems), or any metabolite and/or analogue of any such substance or drug, except as expressly permitted by this Rule.

5.2.2. Any corticosteroid present in the plasma of the horse other than dexamethasone.

5.2.3. Any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug in excess of one present in the plasma or urine of the horse (with the exception of salicylic acid (Aspirin)).

5.2.4. Any substance (or metabolite and/or analogue thereof) permitted by this rule in excess of the maximum limit or other restrictions prescribed herein.

5.2.5. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing Rules, the following drugs and substances are specifically prohibited when introduced or applied as described:
   (1) Adenosine triphosphate (“ATP”) in any application and in dosage amount;
   (2) Selenium injections in any application and in dosage amount;
   (3) Magnesium sulfate given intravenously and in any dosage amount;
   (4) All vitamins and minerals, no matter how applied, when given in excessive dosage quantities for non-therapeutic reasons.

[USPA Comment: CAUTION AGAINST THE USE OF HERBAL/NATURAL PRODUCTS. Owners and Players are hereby warned that the application and use of so-called “herbal” and “natural” products in and to a horse may result in a positive drug screen test indicating the presence of Prohibited Drugs or Substances under these Rules. This testing result may in some cases be contrary to claims of safety or permitted use by those who manufacture and/or market such products. In this regard, owners should be should be skeptical of any claims by manufacturers or others that such products are "legal" or permissible for use at competitions recognized by the USPA or USEF. Owners, Riders, Players and others responsible under these Rules are further cautioned that the plant origin of any ingredient does not preclude its containing a pharmacologically potent and readily detectable prohibited substance, (e.g., cocaine, heroin and marijuana all are derived from plants). Further, Owners and Players are also warned that although the use of some of these products may not have resulted in positive drug tests in the past, this does not preclude their triggering a positive drug screen test in the future as the USEF Equine Drug Testing and Research Laboratory incorporates new methods into its battery of screening tests. For these reasons, the USPA warns most strongly against the use of such products. The ingredient labeling for such preparations is often not complete or accurate. Especially suspect are preparations that are claimed to “calm” or “relax” a horse, while at the same time being said to contain no prohibited substances. Such products include, but are not limited to: valerian, kava kava, passionflower, skullcap, chamomile, vervain, lemon balm, leopard’s bane, night shade, capsaicin, comfrey, devil’s claw, hops, laurel, lavender, red poppy, and rawuolfa.}
OWNERS, RIDERS, PLAYERS, OTHERS RESPONSIBLE UNDER THESE RULES AND THEIR VETERINARIANS ARE THEREFORE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES, POWDERS, AND PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING THOSE USED TOPICALLY, THE INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, AS THEY MIGHT CONTAIN A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THOSE CONTAINING PLANT INGREDIENTS.

[USPA Comment: REGARDING APPROVED" OR "ENDORSED" PRODUCTS. The USPA does not endorse or sanction herbal, natural, or medicinal products of any kind.]

[USPA GUIDELINES FOR THE TIME PERIOD FOR PROHIBITED DRUG DISSIPATION.

The following Guideline information is for horses competing in USPA events in the United States. This information does not apply to any horse competing outside the United States or under any drug testing program using a laboratory other than the USEF Equine Drug Testing and Research Laboratory. This information is current at the time of writing; however, the USEF Laboratory does systematically refine existing drug tests to be more sensitive and develops new tests. Improved testing procedures may be implemented at any time without prior notice. The time periods indicated are intended to be only informative Guidelines for the dissipation from the horse’s system of Prohibited Drugs or Medications, but may become obsolete as new and more sensitive procedures are implemented. Owners and Players are therefore warned that reliance on these Guidelines therefore will not serve as a defense to a violation of the USPA Drugs and Medications Rules in the event of a positive test. Although these Guidelines provided apply to many horses, they cannot account for normal variation in metabolism of drugs by individual horses. Owners and Players should consult drug manufacturers and knowledgeable veterinarians for more specific advice for the administration of any drug or medication, its duration and dissipation.

This Guideline information is therefore presented with the assumption that any and all drugs and medications are used for a therapeutic purpose in the diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury and that any dose administered is a conservative and therapeutic dose consistent with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

Guideline for approximate time for dissipation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Class</th>
<th>Example Drugs</th>
<th>Dissipation Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>long-acting tranquilizers and psychotropics</td>
<td>e.g., fluphenazine and reserpine</td>
<td>90 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>shorter-acting tranquilizers and sedatives, e.g.</td>
<td>e.g., acepromazine, detomidine, and</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procaine penicillin is a special case procaine</td>
<td>procaine penicillin</td>
<td>14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local anesthetics other than procaine</td>
<td>e.g., lidocaine and mepivacaine</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>long acting corticosteroids</td>
<td>e.g., methylprednisolone</td>
<td>14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other corticosteroids</td>
<td>e.g., triamcinolone and betamethasone</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs</td>
<td>e.g., phenylbutazone and flunixin</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antihistamines</td>
<td>e.g., cyproheptadine and pyrilamine</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>respiratory drugs</td>
<td>e.g., albuterol, ventipulmin</td>
<td>7 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These are only Guidelines and do not address a complete list of potential prohibited drugs.*

[USPA Comment: THE VETERINARIAN’S RESPONSIBILITIES]
When dealing with illness or injury in a horse competing at a USPA recognized event, the veterinarian should prescribe or administer whatever substance is indicated as medically necessary for therapeutic purposes. Whenever prescribing or administering a substance prohibited or restricted by these Rules, the Veterinarian should advise the Owner, Player and others responsible under these Rules, of the possible interaction of that treatment with these USPA Drugs and Medications Rules. No Veterinarian should be party to the administration of a drug or medication to a horse or pony in excessive dosages and/or for non-therapeutic purposes to affect the performance of the horse. The USPA considers such conduct unethical and likely to encourage further unethical conduct amongst Owners, Players and other parties responsible under these Rules. Therefore such conduct is contrary to USPA Rules and undermines the fairness of competition at USPA events.

6. PARTIES RESPONSIBLE UNDER THESE RULES.

6.1. The Owner and Player of the horse, as well as all parties defined in Rule 6.2 and the subparts thereof, are accountable for the condition of the horse and compliance with these Rules. In the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, all of those parties are also responsible and accountable under the disciplinary and penalty provisions of the USPA Rules and or By-Laws. They are additionally responsible for guarding each horse at and sufficiently prior to a USPA event, so as to prevent the administration by anyone of, or its exposure to, any Prohibited or Restricted Drug or Substance. The parties responsible under these Rules are presumed to be aware of all the provisions of these Rules and all other rules and regulations of the USPA and the penalty provisions of those rules and regulations. A violation of these Rules shall be considered a Conduct Violation under applicable USPA Rules and/or By-Laws.

6.2. Definitions.

6.2.1. “Owner” is responsible for a violation of these Rules in addition to any other party, and is hereby defined as any adult or adults who has or shares the responsibility for the care, training, custody, control, condition or performance of the horse or has or shares the responsibility for payment thereof. This could be one person or several individuals. In the event a corporate entity is the Owner, or the Owner is otherwise not responsible under these Rules, then the primary Sponsor of the team for whom the horse competed shall stand in place of the Owner as a person who may be charged with any violation of these Rules. In the event the Owner is a minor (under age 18 years at the time of alleged violation) who is also a Member of the USPA, then the parent of the child, if a Member of the USPA along with the minor, shall be responsible under these Rules. The Sponsor of the team for whom the minor’s horse competed shall also stand responsible, along with the child and parent.

6.2.2. “Sponsor” is hereby defined consistent with USPA Outdoor Rule 1.f and Interpretation 1.f, and as defined in 6.2.1.

6.2.3. “Player” is defined as the person riding the horse in a USPA event and can be one and the same person as the Owner. The Player is responsible for a violation of these Rules in addition to any other party.

6.2.4. “Substantial evidence” means affirmative evidence of such a clear and definite nature as to reasonably establish a fact. It is not the same burden of proof as that required in a court of law.
6.2.5. “USPA event” and “USPA competition” shall mean any polo game, match, tournament or exhibition played or conducted at a USPA Member Club.

6.3. Leased or Borrowed Horses – The Owners of leased or borrowed horses are also held responsible for any violations of these Rules by the party leasing or borrowing the horses.

7. TESTING PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOL.

7.1. At any given USPA event, the USPA may designate a licensed veterinarian of that State of the United States (the “Sampling Veterinarian”) to take samples from one or more horses competing or performing at that event.

7.2. The Sampling Veterinarian shall, at any time after conclusion of the USPA event, inform the Owner or Player that a given horse is to be subject to blood sampling. Upon such notice by the testing veterinarian, the Owner or Player must ensure that the horse does not leave field side until the sample has been taken.

7.4. An Owner or Player or his or her designated representative must accompany the Sampling Veterinarian and observe the sample being removed from the horse. The Owner, Player or his or her designated representative shall then acknowledge in writing on the USPA Field Testing Form that the given sample was taken from the given horse.

[USPA Comment: Failure or refusal by an Owner or Player to comply with Rule 7.4 creates an irrefutable presumption that the sample was correctly taken from the Owner’s or Player’s horse.]

7.5. Two samples shall be taken from each horse by the Sampling Veterinarian: Both shall be securely labeled with the date and location of the competition, breed, sex and approximate age of the horse, but only with a code designating the owner and horse’s name, which code shall be known only to the USEF but not to the USEF testing laboratory.

7.6. Both samples shall be immediately transferred to the USEF testing laboratory for testing consistent with these Rules. Only Sample A shall be tested initially. Sample B shall be preserved for further testing as permitted under these Rules.

8. PRESUMED VIOLATION FOR POSITIVE TEST.

8.1. The presence of a positive test for a Prohibited Drug or Substance presumes violation of these Rules.

8.1.1 It shall not be a defense to a violation of these Rules nor to any Conduct Violation of USPA rules that the veterinarian that initially administered the Prohibited Drug or Substance failed to render proper advice or provided improper advice about compliance with these Rules.

8.1.2. A presumption of a violation may be rebutted by substantial evidence that the horse sampled was not owned by, ridden or played by the Owner or Player charged with the
violation or by substantial evidence that the test results are faulty or the otherwise the result of error.

8.1.3. The Owner, Player or other responsible party under these Rule charged with a violation of these Rules may request that Sample B be tested by the USEF Laboratory to confirm the results of the testing of Sample A.

8.1.4. A Conduct Violation triggered by a violation of these Rules shall proceed under the Disciplinary provisions of USPA By-Law 11.B, which apply to violations of these Drugs and Medications Rules.

[USPA Comment: The parties responsible under these Rules are cautioned that they are ultimately responsible for every substance that enters into their horse’s system.]

9. USE OF GUIDELINES AND COMMENTS.

The USPA has provided herein certain GUIDELINES and COMMENTS with these Rules. These GUIDELINES and COMMENTS are provided to assist the Owner, Player, other responsible parties as well as the Veterinarian with the interpretation and application of these Rules. However, these GUIDELINES and COMMENTS are neither intended to nor should be construed as rules by themselves nor as defenses to any finding of a violation of these Rules.

For further information regarding these Rules, please contact the USPA by phone: 800-232-8772
PROCEDURE FOR REMOVAL OF INJURED or DOWNED HORSE FROM POLO FIELD
Also see Addendum 1—Announcer’s Script for Equine Ambulance Dispatch

1. The determination that the horse needs to be removed from the field by equine ambulance will be made collaboratively by any or all of the following, depending on who is on site: the official veterinarian, the equine welfare representative, polo manager and/or horse owner.

2. Once the decision is made, the equine ambulance and a trained assistant will be dispatched and the equine representative will prepare the horse and players for the approaching ambulance.

3. As soon as possible, the screens should be put in place and held by 6 individuals – three screens with two people per screen – to shield the injured or downed horse from the spectators.

4. The ambulance driver and assistant will quickly assess, evaluate and proceed as necessary.

5. Once the horse is in the trailer, the screens should be rolled up and left at the on-site equine ambulance location, along with any first aid equipment that is not in use. (*Kimzey Leg Brace*, etc.)

6. The horse can then be transported to a veterinary hospital or gravesite. The ambulance will return to the polo grounds as soon as possible, once the horse is removed from the ambulance.

7. Other considerations:
   a. It may be necessary to have the veterinarian and horse owner involved in conversation with the ambulance driver during the evaluation and procedure process. Should it be necessary to euthanize the horse, the horse owner should sign a permission to euthanize form.
   b. During this process, if there is a public address system, the announcer will have a script to follow while the horse is being administered to.
   c. The equine welfare representative will be instrumental throughout the entire process of removing the horse from the field. Their responsibility will be as a liaison to all of the parties involved, while overseeing the entire situation from start to finish, with a strong emphasis on the care of the horse as well as consideration of the horse owner and spectators.
PROCEDURE FOR THE LOSS OF A HORSE

The announcer will solemnly ask for the attention of the crowd and announce that he/she has a very unfortunate update on the status of the injured equine partner.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it is at this time I inform you of the tragic loss of one of our beloved equine partners. We invited you here today to share the exhilarating and elegant sport to which we as competitors have devoted a great portion of our lives. At the heart of this sport is the horse and the relationship we share with our athlete partner. It is a bond that begins when we, as polo players, adopt the horses from racetracks, farms, foaling sheds and adoption facilities. Together we start a journey of riding every day, training each other and striving to become a better and more fulfilled athlete than we were the day before. Most of the time this relationship lasts the duration of one or both of our lives. Sometimes, and thankfully not very often, this lifelong bond ends far too soon and tragically as we have witnessed here today.

At this time, I need a moment to regain my composure, and ask that a moment of silence be dedicated to the memory of this beautiful horse as we share our sorrow with the horse’s partner and extended family."

Suggestion: include an appropriate reading or poem.
Equine Ambulance Dispatch Script

To be used during removal of an injured or downed horse

Note: This format may also be used for a human ambulance dispatch

The determination that the horse needs to be removed from the field by equine ambulance will be made collaboratively by any or all of the following depending on who is on site: the official veterinarian, the equine welfare representative polo manager and horse owner.

- Once this decision has been made, the announcer will be notified immediately
- After the announcer has been notified, he will inform the public by making the following announcement: “I have just been notified from the Equine Welfare Committee that the mishap on the playing field will require the assistance of the equine ambulance and veterinarian team. In order to expedite the process, it is ABSOLUTELY essential that everyone remain off of the playing field unless specifically summoned to assist by a member of the Equine Welfare Committee. Thank you for your cooperation. I shall keep you informed as any details are made available to me. Our goal is to appropriately tend to the polo mount as necessary and to return to the game as promptly as possible.”
- Include a 1 - 2 minute pause.

Appropriate updated information will be announced as it becomes available.
Example: “Ladies and gentlemen, I have just received word that the injury appears to be minor; however, the decision has been made to transport the mount by Equine Ambulance to a Veterinarian Hospital.”
- The host club should use this time to thank sponsors and fill time to the best of their judgment.
Emergency Checklist

- First Aid Kit
  - Thermometer
  - Antiseptic Wound Cleaner
  - Fence Cutters
  - Clean Bandages
  - Gauze Pads, Cotton, Diapers
  - Self-sticking Bandages
  - Zinc Oxide Cream
  - Salts
  - Antiseptic Cream
  - Tape
  - Betadine Scrub
  - Flashlight
  - Gloves
  - Hoof Pick
  - Bandage Scissors

- Inventory in the Ambulance Trailer:
  - Rescue Glide (see below) and Slip Sheet
  - 4-15’ Cotton Ropes, 2-30’ Cotton Ropes
  - J Hook
  - 2-Sets of Hobbles
  - 2-25’ Freight Ratchet Straps
  - 3-Locking Carabineers

Suggested Equipment:
- Kimzey Leg Saver Splint
  (http://www.kimzeymetalproducts.com/new_page_4.htm)
- Rescue Glides (www.rescueglides.com)
Sample Acknowledgement and Acceptance of the Equine Welfare Guidelines and Attachments

I ________________________ acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the United States Polo Association 2012 By-Laws, Constitution, Rules of Outdoor and Arena Polo, Rules Interpretations, Tournament Conditions, Umpire Guide and the appropriate state animal anti-cruelty law.

Failure to comply with this agreement may result in disciplinary action at ________________________________ (Host USPA Member Club).

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
The Owen O’Hanlon Groom Award is presented by the USPA annually to each active USPA club to be given to a recipient based on the following criteria:

- Dedication
- Ability
- Knowledge

UNITED STATES POLO ASSOCIATION
9011 Lake Worth Rd
Lake Worth, FL 33467
Tel: 800-232-8772 Fax: 888-391-7410
www.uspolo.org Email: ldolan@uspolo.org

For the Year ____

OWEN O’HANLON GROOM AWARD

Must be received by December 31 of each year

Club:__________________________________________________________

PLEASE PRINT or TYPE INFORMATION

GROOM’S NAME:_____________________________________________________

NUMBER OF YEARS WORKED AS A GROOM:_____________________________

PRESENT EMPLOYER:_______________________________________________

CLUB PRESIDENT:__________________________________________________

DELEGATE’S SIGNATURE:__________________________________________

DATE:_________

FOR USPA OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED BY: □ FAX □ MAIL CIRCUIT GOVERNOR:_____________________

DATE RECEIVED:___________________________________________________

DATE AWARD WAS MAILED:___________ MAILED BY:_______________
## Equine Welfare Committee Members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Polo Club</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam Snow</td>
<td>Derry Heir Farm Polo Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Scheraga</td>
<td>Denver Polo Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesley Ann Fong-Yee</td>
<td>Crestview Polo Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avery Chapman</td>
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## Equine Welfare Committee Vice-Chairman

Mark Sedacca

Dr. William Patterson - Drugs and Medications Sub Committee Chairman

Lydia Sudick - Bibeau - Unwanted Polo Pony Subcommittee Chairman

Margie Paur - Publications Subcommittee Chairman

Dr. Josh Hall - Veterinary Special Council

Lindsay Dolan - Equine Welfare Committee Staff
9011 Lake Worth Rd – Suite A
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Toll Free: 800-232-8772
Fax - 888-391-7410

USPA Staff Contact:
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ldolan@uspolo.org

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