

"Regulators, Racetrack Vets and
Compounded Substances:
*Perspectives of a New Mexico
Veterinary Medical Board
Member*"

*Marybeth Brown-Pirrone, MSN, RN, FNP.
Public Member: New Mexico Board of
Veterinary Medicine*

Statement of Fact

Many incidents in New Mexico involving race track veterinarians using:

- *compounded medications with illegal additives*
- *illegal medications*
- *illicit substances on horses at the race track*

Case Review:

- abrupt search and seizure of compounded meds and controlled substances
- occurred at Ruidoso Downs Race Track in 2014



Case Background

- ▶ Sp 2014, horse tested positive for *Viagra*
 - *Occurred @ Ruidoso Downs Race Track in NM*
- ▶ Vet administering pre-race meds contacted by NMRC
 - *Answered all questions*
 - *Voluntarily surrendered all meds administered*
- ▶ NMRC tested meds, found *Viagra* in one compounded med
- ▶ Vet denied ordering med compounded with *Viagra*

- ▶ NMRC investigated and discovered Weatherford Pharmacy
 - *Compounded the med containing Viagra*
 - *History of including unapproved substances to compounded medications dispensed*
- ▶ Vet filed lawsuit against Weatherford Pharmacy
- ▶ NMRC investigator then felt a search and seizure was warranted due to incident and speculation about Weatherford pharmacy

2014 Search & Seizure Incident

- ▶ NMRC investigator and an assistant initiated search and seizure:
 - *Occurred at Ruidoso Downs Race Track*
 - *Searched all of vet's vehicles*
- ▶ Seized some of the compounded meds and one expired controlled substance
 - *Taken to test for any illegal medications and/or illicit substances*
- ▶ Concern: NMBVM aware of some but not all of the medications seized.

Medications Seized

- ▶ Medications seized from vets included:
 - *Tildren*
 - *Ketamine – expired bottle*
 - *Gastrogaurd – compounded*
 - *Naquazone – compounded*
 - *Desamethasone – compounded*
 - *Bute – compounded*
- ▶ Current location – NMRC office
- ▶ Status of testing –
 - *unknown and info unavailable to NMBVM*

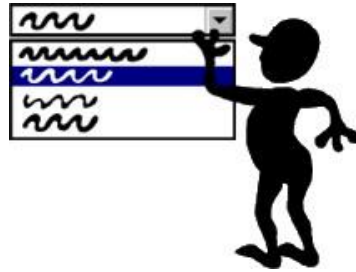
Statement from NM BVM

- ▶ Recognizes need for stricter regulations of meds used in racing industry
- ▶ Agrees with/understands reason for search and seizure
- ▶ Disagrees with how search & seizure was conducted

ISSUES

1. One or more reps of NM Pharmacy Board or DEA should have been present
2. Controlled drugs removed/transported by individuals without a DEA license.
3. Current location of drugs in storage room at NMRC
 - Should be at Board of Pharmacy, not NMRC office
 - Vet are still accountable for controlled substance but it is no longer under the vet's control
4. Seizure caused significant financial loss to vets
5. NMBVM should have been notified by NMRC of situation prior to conducting search & seizure

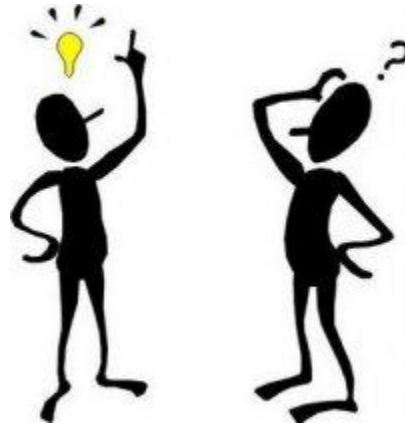
5 Recommendations from NMBVM



1. Rep from NMBP or DEA should accompany any NMRC investigator when conducting a search and seizure.
2. NMRC to develop & implement written systematic procedure for search & seizure of meds.

3. Take photo and sample of med; label; leave original med with vet
4. If med bottle unlabeled, confiscate.
5. ED of NMBVM make arrangements for our investigator to accompany NMRC on all future search and seizure procedures.

Questions?



Discussion!