



INVASIVE TREATMENT EXPLANATORY NOTES

Please read these explanatory notes prior to completion of any IT forms.

INVASIVE TREATMENT - DEFINITION

Any rider whose horse receives invasive treatment whilst participating in an AERA affiliated Endurance, Training or Introductory ride is required to complete and sign an Invasive Treatment form and return it to the Chief Steward of the ride **before** leaving the Ride Base.

The AERA Handbook includes the following in relation to Invasive treatment;

H24.1 Invasive Treatment is defined as any diagnosis or treatment of a horse which involves the puncture or incision of the skin or the insertion of any instrument or foreign material into the body (except that the use of oral electrolytes by way of syringe, or the use of a thermometer to take temperature is exempted from this rule).

H25.6 Any horse requiring invasive treatment due to a metabolic condition during or as a result of the event may be eliminated, depending on the nature of the treatment and severity of the episode. The event being defined as from the pre-ride veterinary check until 2 hours after the end of the ride vet check for that horse. At that time, at the discretion of the head veterinarian, a further check may be required.

INVASIVE TREATMENT - GRADING

All Invasive Treatment must be classified as either:

- a) Moderate metabolic disorders such as Ty-Up (Exertional Rhabdomyolysis), other mild muscle conditions, Synchronous Diaphragmatic Flutter (Thumps), mild heat distress, very mild GIT conditions;
- b) Severe metabolic disorders – include Exhaustive Horse Syndrome (fatigue related), Endotoxaemia, the more severe GIT crises ie. Diarrhoea, colitis, impactions, paralytic ileus, hyper/hypomotility colics, moderate to severe heat stroke.

The Veterinarian must also record a summary of the IT provided in the back of the horse's logbook.

REST ORDERS

The AERA Handbook includes the following in relation to rest orders;

H22.1 The Head Veterinarian at a ride **may** impose a rest order on a horse, if in the opinion of that Veterinarian the horse is injured and/or stressed and/or in need of protection from further abuse, or the life, health or welfare of the horse may be jeopardised if it continued to compete.

H22.2 The rest order can be that:

- a) The horse is not permitted to compete at future affiliated rides for a time sufficient for that horse to recover from its injury or stress (up to a maximum of twelve months); and/or
- b) The horse compete at its next affiliated ride as a novice horse; or
- c) A recommendation to the appropriate State Management Committee that the horse should not compete in future endurance rides.

Guideline to Rest Orders

The issue of a rest order is purely a device to ensure that a horse has time to recover and obtain sufficient fitness prior to the next start. It is not in any way a form of disciplinary action. It is difficult to have rest orders linked to treatment levels due to the high degree of variability between cases.

The time restriction detailed on the rest order should take into account the time taken for the horse to recover from the condition(s) of concern and also the time taken to resume training in preparation for the next ride. The time to resume training is longer for conditions necessitating prolonged recovery.

In all cases, it is advisable that the Head Vet, in consultation with the treating veterinarian talk to the rider to obtain a clear picture of the conditions surrounding the horse's demise. It is ideal that the reasons for the rest order be discussed with the rider.

Rest orders should not generally be given for lameness because a diagnosis and therefore prognosis may not be made.

Rest orders should not be given for mild tying-up, when to go back into regular work is part of the management regime. A horse with any metabolic condition such as colic, tying up, or the thumps, that requires invasive treatment should get a rest order of one to three months, allowing time for rest before the horse returns to training and then competition. The option should be available for a rest order of six to twelve months for horses with severe problems that have required intensive care.

Chief Steward Notes

The completed IT forms from both the treating veterinarian and the rider must be attached to your Chief Stewards Ride Report lodged with your Division SMC. The appropriate person on the Division SMC is to ensure that copies of the IT forms are passed to the Division Horse Welfare officer and the AERA Horse Welfare officer.

If a Rest Order has been issued, rule H22.3 states that the Chief Steward of the Ride must;

- a) Ensure that the length of the Rest Order is written in weeks in the appropriate place on the relevant page in the Logbook;
- b) Fix a highly visible red sticker to the top of the relevant page in the logbook so that it is easily noticeable when the horse enters subsequent rides.

In addition, the Logbook of a horse placed on a Rest Order **may** be retained by the Chief Steward of the ride, and then held by the Division Horse Welfare Officer (or other designated official) until the period of the Rest Order has expired.