



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

AR 231 Endoscopy of the respiratory tract

Summary:

The Racing Australia Veterinary and Analysts Committee (VAC) advises there is increasing evidence of training establishments performing endoscopy of the respiratory tract without any veterinary involvement. Endoscopy is an invasive procedure with risks to horses and human handlers.

The act of introducing an endoscope into the respiratory tract is not itself considered an act of veterinary science within the relevant legislation where it is performed by a lay person on a horse in their care and without a fee for service being charged. However lay persons performing this procedure are by virtue of the action then accordingly making a diagnosis – which is considered an act of veterinary science – and, further, instigating some form of drug therapy as a result of that lay diagnosis (often without any veterinary consultation).

Accordingly, VAC is of the view that endoscopy of the respiratory tract on a horse should only be performed by a qualified veterinarian. The Racing Australia Chairmen of Stewards Committee supports this position.

Racing Australia has approved the addition of new subrule (6).

Amend AR 231 as follows:

AR 231 Care and welfare of horses

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“(6) A person must not perform endoscopy of the respiratory tract on a horse unless he or she is a qualified veterinary surgeon.”

Date of effect: 1 January 2020