



Office of Veterinary Affairs
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To: All New York Licensed Trainers and Veterinarians
From: Dr. Scott E. Palmer
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Thyroxine Advisory

Primary hypothyroidism is an extremely rare condition in horses of racing age. In addition to diurnal variation in thyroid hormone levels, NSAIDs, glucocorticosteroids, trimethoprim-sulfonamide antibiotics, chronic illness, diet and strenuous exercise may decrease levels of thyroid hormones. Some veterinarians have submitted T3 & T4 sampling alone to justify a hypothyroidism diagnosis. Others have indicated a positive clinical response in a horse treated with thyroxine as evidence of hypothyroidism. Neither is a reliable diagnostic indicator.

Commencing today, the results of a thyrotropin releasing hormone (TRH) Response Test will be required before I will consider a Therapeutic Use Exemption for treatment with thyroxine. Further details on use of the TRH Response Test are available on the Equine Health and Safety page of the Commission website: www.gaming.ny.gov.