



GVHS Drug Testing Rules

Purpose

The Gypsy Vanner Horse Society (GVHS) Drug Testing Program is established to protect horse welfare, preserve the integrity of the Gypsy Vanner breed, and ensure fair and equitable competition at GVHS-sanctioned events.

Scope

This document is intended as guidance to exhibitors, owners, trainers, veterinarians, show management, and officials. The guidelines contained herein are applicable to most horses and can minimize the chances of positive drug tests. However, reliance upon these guidelines does not guarantee compliance with the rules, because the response of individual horses can vary. Reliance upon these guidelines is not a defense in the event of a violation. Exhibitors, owners and trainers should consult the drug manufacturer and knowledgeable veterinarians for up-to-date information and more specific advice concerning the therapeutic use of a drug or medication for a particular horse.

Procedure

What Is Drug Testing?

Drug testing refers to the collection and laboratory analysis of blood, urine, hair and/or other biological samples to detect controlled or banned substances that could unfairly affect a horse's performance, behavior, or health.

1. Medication Categories

GVHS recognizes three categories of medications and substances:

1.1 Prohibited (Banned) Substances

Prohibited substances are never permitted in competition. No Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) will be accepted for these substances. The GVHS Prohibited Substance List (**Appendix C**) applies at all times.

1.2 Conditionally Permitted Therapeutic Medications (Controlled Substances)

Conditionally permitted therapeutic medications (or controlled substances) are substances used solely for the legitimate treatment of illness or injury that could affect a horse's performance, behavior, or disposition. These substances are prohibited unless all

conditions for therapeutic use are met.

The conditions are:

- Administration must be for legitimate veterinary treatment of illness or injury
- Administration must be by, or under written prescription from, a licensed veterinarian.
- A completed GVHS Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) / Medication Report Form must be submitted in accordance with GVHS timelines (see section 3).
- Minimum withdrawal periods, dosage limits, and administration routes must be observed.

Administration for purposes such as training, transport, grooming, calming, or performance enhancement is not considered therapeutic.

See Appendix B for the complete list of Controlled Substances

1.3 Permitted Medications Within 24 Hours of Competition

GVHS permits limited use of specific therapeutic medications within 24 hours of competition without the requirement to file a TUE, provided all dosage limits, withdrawal times, and use conditions are met.

The following medications are permitted within 24 hours:

Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) (only ONE permitted NSAID may be present):

- Phenylbutazone (Bute®)
- Diclofenac (Surpass®)
- Flunixin meglumine (Banamine®)
- Ketoprofen (Ketofen®)
- Meclofenamic acid (Arquel®)
- Naproxen
- Firocoxib (Equioxx®)

Other Permitted Medications:

- Acetazolamide (HYPP-positive horses only)
- Furosemide (Lasix)
- Isoxsuprine (Vasodilan®)
- Lidocaine/ Mepivacaine
- Dexamethasone
- Methocarbamol
- Cetirizine (Zyrtec)

Use of these medications must comply with all dosage, timing, and treatment duration limits described in Section 2 and Appendix A.2.

2. Withdrawal Times, Dosage Thresholds, and NSAID Rules

2.1 General Withdrawal Principles

- No medication may be administered in a manner that results in plasma or urine concentrations exceeding permitted thresholds at the time of competition.
- Withdrawal times are minimum guidelines; individual horse metabolism may vary.
- When in doubt, exhibitors are strongly encouraged to file a TUE or withdraw the horse from competition.

2.2 NSAID Rules

- NSAIDs are to be administered to a horse only for a therapeutic purpose, and only the NSAIDs listed in 1.3 above are permitted to be used.
- When administered, the NSAIDs above should be administered in accordance with the guidelines in Appendix A.1, and no other NSAIDs are to be administered.
- Only **one permitted NSAID** may be present in a horse's system regardless of the level present.
- If more than one NSAID is administered, one must be discontinued at least **72 hours** prior to competition.
- Any NSAID not listed as permitted must not be administered within **7 days** prior to competition.

2.3 Dosage and Timing Standards

GVHS dosage thresholds, maximum treatment durations, plasma concentration limits, and latest-administration timing for permitted NSAIDs and therapeutic medications are detailed in Appendix A.

3. Medication Reporting, Non-Compliance, and Presumptions

3.1 Submission Requirements

- Exhibitors may file a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) using a form provided by GVHS or show managers.
- All required TUEs / Medication Report Forms must be complete, accurate, and submitted at least 24 hours before the horse's first class of the competition.
- Forms must include medication name, dosage, route, time of administration, diagnosis, and veterinarian information.

3.2 Late or Incomplete Submissions

- Incomplete, inaccurate, or late submissions may result in disciplinary action.
- Failure to submit required documentation may itself constitute a violation, even if the substance is otherwise conditionally permitted.

3.3 Presumptions of Violation

- Laboratory findings inconsistent with reported dosage, timing, or therapeutic use create a presumption of violation.
- The burden of persuasion rests with the responsible parties to demonstrate legitimate therapeutic administration and compliance.

4 Long-Term Therapeutic Use Exemptions (Chronic Conditions)

GVHS can approve long-term TUEs for horses with documented chronic medical conditions (e.g., PPID/Cushing's).

- Long-term TUEs may be approved for a period of one year from the date of filing.
- Approval requires veterinary documentation, diagnostic testing, and clinical history.
- Once approved, repeated event-by-event filings are not required unless conditions change.

Corrective Actions

5 Testing Authority, Procedures, and Presumptions

5.1 Authority to Test

- Any horse on the competition grounds may be selected for testing.
- Selection may be random, results-based, based on veterinarian observations, or based on prior violations or associations.

5.2 Show and Horse Selection

- Shows are selected at random. No advance notice is provided. The Nationals Horse Show will always be selected for testing.
- A licensed veterinarian arrives on-site with a list of randomly selected classes and placings compiled by an impartial third party.

5.3 Sample Collection

- Collection will be performed by licensed veterinarians or authorized personnel.
- The vet will notify the selected exhibitor and accompany the horse to its stall or a designated testing stall.
- A state-licensed official collects samples. Samples may include blood, urine, saliva, hair, or other biological material.
- Samples will only be handled by state-licensed officials and GVHS-contracted laboratories to ensure integrity and efficacy.
- The show manager will provide the GVHS Drug Testing Form to the vet. The vet will complete the form as testing is conducted. All responsible parties for each horse tested must sign the form. The show manager will submit the completed form to the

Animal Welfare and Unsportsmanlike Conduct Committee (AWSCC) within 14 days of the show's completion.

- Samples are shipped to a GVHS-contracted equine forensic lab.

5.4 Procedural Presumptions

- Laboratory results are presumed accurate.
- Sample integrity, chain of custody, and testing procedures are presumed proper unless proven otherwise.
- Plasma or urine concentrations exceeding permitted thresholds constitute a violation.
- Laboratory findings inconsistent with reported administration create a presumption of violation.

5.5 Testing Volume & Authority

- If testing is conducted at a GVHS sanctioned event, 10% of the total number of entered horses will be tested.
- At the GVHS National Show, a minimum of both:
 - 10% of total entries, and/or a minimum of 5 horses, and
 - 10% of National Champion winnerswill be tested.
- The attending veterinarian reserves the right to test any equine on the premises that they deem appropriate.

6. Penalties and Adjudication

Violation Level	Violation	Penalty
Level I	Controlled with no TUE filed but scenario presented supports reasonable therapeutic use (1 st offense)	Up to \$150 fine; up to 1 year probation for responsible parties
Level II	Overage of one permitted medication (1 st offense)	Up to \$250 fine; 1 year probation for responsible parties, disqualification from class with positive results
	More than one NSAID (within acceptable limits, 1 st offense)	Up to \$250 fine; 1 year probation for responsible parties, disqualification from class with positive results

	Controlled with no TUE filed but scenario presented supports reasonable therapeutic use (2 nd offense)	Up to \$250 fine; 60 day suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from class with positive results
	Controlled with no TUE filed and scenario presented does not support reasonable therapeutic use (1 st offense)	Up to \$250 fine; 60 day suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from class with positive results
Level III	Overage of one permitted medication (2 nd offense)	\$500–\$1,000 fine; 60 day suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from entire event
	More than one NSAID (within acceptable limits, 2 nd offense)	\$500–\$1,000 fine; 60 day suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from entire event
	Controlled with no TUE filed but scenario presented supports reasonable therapeutic use (3 rd offense)	\$500–\$1,000 fine; 6 month suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from entire event
	Controlled with no TUE filed and scenario presented does not support reasonable therapeutic use (2 nd offense)	\$500–\$1,000 fine; 6 month suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from entire event
Level IV	Overage of one permitted medication (3 rd offense)	\$1,000–\$2,000 fine; 6 month suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from all events in the calendar year
	More than one NSAID (outside acceptable limits or 3 rd offense)	\$1,000–\$2,000 fine; 6 month suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from all events in the calendar year
	Controlled with no TUE filed and scenario presented does not support reasonable therapeutic use (3 rd offense)	\$1,000–\$2,000 fine; 1-year suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from all events in the calendar year

	Banned Substance (1 st offense)	\$1,000–\$2,000 fine; 1-year suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from all events in the calendar year
Level V	Banned Substance (2 nd offense)	\$2,000–\$3,000 fine; 1-year suspension for responsible parties, disqualification from all events in the calendar year, loss of GVHS membership for one year

- Penalties can stack for multiple violations in the same incident (aka multiple NSAIDs and over acceptable limit).
- Violations shall not carry over to the next calendar year unless:
 - The responsible party is on probation. The violations will not expire until the conclusion of the probationary period
 - The violation involves a banned substance which will not expire
- All awards, placings, and GVHS points from the class(es) and/or show where the horse is disqualified will be forfeited.
- All ribbons and awards must be returned at the exhibitor's expense for any class(es) deemed disqualified by the penalty for that horse testing positive.
- Published penalties represent **maximum potential penalties**.
- Final penalties will be determined by the AWUCC based on:
 - Laboratory findings
 - Evidence presented
 - Appeals
 - Discussion by the AWUCC members

7. Appeals Process

7.1 Results Appeal

- Responsible parties (owner, trainer, exhibitor) may appeal a positive test result.
- Appeals must be submitted using the required form (available via GVHS or show managers). The completed form and any supporting documentation must be sent to the GVHS Animal Welfare and Unsportsmanlike Conduct Committee at: gvhs@vanners.org.
- The Appeal must be submitted within 15 days of the date of the notice of positive results letter or else the appeal will be deemed waived.
- Upon receipt of an appeal, or if no appeal is made, the Animal Welfare and Unsportsmanlike Conduct Committee will evaluate the matter and may seek further discussion with the Responsible Parties.
- Upon completion, the Committee will make a recommendation to the GVHS Board of Directors for final adjudication.

7.2 Decision & Penalties Appeal

- Responsible parties (owner, trainer, exhibitor) may appeal the decision and penalties.
- Appeals must be submitted using the required form (available via GVHS or show managers). The completed form and any supporting documentation must be sent to the GVHS Animal Welfare and Unsportsmanlike Conduct Committee at: gvhs@vanners.org.
- The Appeal must be submitted within 15 days of the date of the notice of final decision letter or else the appeal will be deemed waived.
- If a decision and penalty appeal is requested, the matter will proceed to a hearing before the GVHS Board of Directors.
- **All expectations and guarantees of confidentiality and privacy are waived** upon initiation of this appeal.
- Board hearings related to decision and penalty appeals shall be considered **public record**.
- The decision of the Board of Directors following a hearing shall be final.

8. Education and Risk Warnings

GVHS cautions against:

- Herbal or “natural” products (plant-based does not mean permitted) as they may contain prohibited substances
- Compounded medications which may have unknown or inconsistent ingredients
- Supplements claiming to be undetectable or show-safe as these claims do not override GVHS rules.
- Supplements are known to sometimes contain undisclosed ingredients - use them at your own risk.

Use of such products may result in positive tests.

9. Responsibility

- Owners, trainers, and exhibitors listed for the horse are considered the responsible parties and are strictly responsible for the horse’s condition.
- Responsibility applies regardless of intent, knowledge, or delegation.
- If the responsible party is a minor (as defined by the GVHS rulebook), their parent or legal guardian will assume responsibility for all related penalties and fines.

10. Show Management Responsibility

- Collect the \$20 drug testing fee from each horse entered in GVHS-sanctioned Gypsy Vanner classes.
- Submit collected fees to GVHS within 14 days of the show closing.
- Provide a complete show roster and back numbers upon request.
- Ensure that any horse selected for testing is held from competing in further classes until the sampling is complete.
- Provide the GVHS Drug Testing Form to the veterinarian and ensure it is completed and signed by all responsible parties.
- Submit the completed form to the AWSCC within 14 days of the show's conclusion.
- Prize lists must include drug testing language regarding awards forfeiture in the case of a positive test.
- Failure to comply may result in:
 - Loss of GVHS show accreditation, and
 - Loss of GVHS points for all participants.

11. Non-Compliance

- Refusal to pay the drug testing fee or refusal to allow a horse to be tested will result in:
 - a. Immediate disqualification of all prizes, awards, points, and rankings earned in the show, and
 - b. removal from the show, and
 - c. No refund of entry fees.
- GVHS may also report positive results or refusal to test to other equine organizations if applicable.

12. Confidentiality and Privacy

12.1 Confidentiality Obligations

Members of the Animal Welfare and Sportsmanlike Conduct Committee (AWSCC), GVHS employees, and members of the GVHS Board of Directors (BOD) who are involved in the drug testing program are bound by confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations. These obligations prohibit the disclosure of any information related to the drug testing program, including but not limited to:

- The existence of testing,
- Test selection,
- Laboratory findings,
- Positive or negative test results,

- Substances detected,
- Dosage or concentration information, and
- Identities of horses or responsible parties.

12.2 Confidential Handling of Positive Test Results

Positive test results shall remain confidential and restricted to the involved committee members, GVHS staff, and BOD representatives until the AWSCC has completed its review and issued a final decision regarding responsibility and penalties.

12.3 Dismissed Cases

If a results appeal is accepted or a positive test is otherwise dismissed, the matter shall be considered closed.

- No public record of the test, findings, or proceedings shall be made.
- No identifying information related to the horse or responsible parties shall be disclosed.

12.4 Upheld Positive Tests

If a positive test result is upheld:

- The existence of a positive test and the resulting penalties shall be reported to the GVHS Board of Directors.
- The horse's name, responsible parties, and any identifying information shall not be disclosed to the Board beyond what is necessary for governance and enforcement purposes.

12.5 Notification to Show Management

When penalties include disqualification:

- The show manager of the event where the positive test occurred will be notified that the horse has been disqualified.
- No additional information shall be provided, including but not limited to the substance detected, dosage or concentration, identities of responsible parties, or other penalties imposed.

12.6 Public Disclosure of Suspensions

When penalties include suspension:

- The fact of the suspension and the names of the suspended parties shall be made public.
- No additional information related to the case shall be disclosed publicly, including the substance involved, test results, dosage or concentration levels, or laboratory findings.

12.7 Waiver of Privacy Upon Appeal

If any responsible party appeals the final decision and/or penalties to the GVHS Board of Directors:

- All confidentiality and privacy protections related to the case are waived.
- All information related to the case shall become public record during the Board hearing.
- The hearing and associated records shall be considered public.

Closing Statement

This guidance reflects GVHS's commitment to horse welfare, fair competition, and transparent governance. Cooperation, education, and responsible medication practices are essential to the success of the program and the integrity of the Gypsy Vanner breed.

Appendix A: Permitted Medications Within 24 Hours of Competition

The following medications are permitted within 24 hours of competition without filing a TUE (unless otherwise specified below), provided all dosage limits, withdrawal times, and conditions are met.

A.1 Permitted NSAIDs (Only ONE allowed at a time)

Medication	Trade Name	Max Dosage	Latest Administration Prior to Competition	Max Permitted Plasma Concentration
Phenylbutazone	Bute®	2.0 mg/lb/day	≥12 hours	15.0 mg/ml
Diclofenac (topical)	Surpass®	73 mg per site, q12h	≥12 hours	0.005 mg/ml
Flunixin meglumine	Banamine®	0.5 mg/lb/day	≥12 hours	1.0 mg/ml
Ketoprofen	Ketofen®	1.0 mg/lb/day	≥12 hours	40.0 ng/ml
Meclofenamic acid	Arquel®	0.5 mg/lb q12h	≥12 hours	2.5 mg/ml
Naproxen	—	4.0 mg/lb/day	≥12 hours	40.0 mg/ml
Firocoxib	Equioxx®	0.0455 mg/lb/day	≥12 hours	0.240 mg/ml

Important NSAID Rules:

- No more than one permitted NSAID may be present.
- If two NSAIDs are administered, one must be discontinued at least 72 hours prior to competition.
- Any NSAID not listed above must not be administered at least 7 days prior to competition.

A.2 Other Permitted Medications Within 24 Hours

Medication	Purpose / Limitation	Key Conditions	Max Permitted Plasma Concentration
Acetazolamide	HYPP-positive horses only	Veterinary diagnosis required; dosage per body weight	None specified
Furosemide (Lasix)	TUE must be filed	≥4-hour withdrawal prior to competition	100 ng/ml

Isoxsuprine	Circulatory support	≥4-hour withdrawal prior to competition	None specified
Lidocaine/ Mepivacaine	Aid in surgical repair of minor skin lacerations which would not prevent the horse from competing	Only used under actual observation of event management or show veterinarian who must sign a TUE	None specified
Dexamethasone	Anti-inflammatory (therapeutic use only)	≥12-hour withdrawal	0.5 ng/ml
	Emergency alternative for urticaria (hives)	Must be administered by a licensed veterinarian, must submit TUE with vet signature; ≥6-hour withdrawal	None specified
Methocarbamol	Muscle relaxant	≥12-hour withdrawal; 5-day max treatment	0.5 mg/ml
Cetirizine (Zyrtec)	For treatment of allergies	Must submit a TUE if withdrawal period would result in testing over the threshold	0.6 mg/ml

Appendix B: Controlled Substances List

acepromazine	furosemide (Lasix)**	promethazine
acetylpromazine	glycerol	pseudophedrine (Tri-Hist Granules)
acetazolamide**	guaiaacolate	pyrilamine (Tri-Hist Granules)
albuterol (Salbutamol)	glycopyrrolate	romifidine (Sedivet)
aminophylline	guaifenesin (Mucinex)	salmeterol
antihistamines	hydrochlorothiazide	scopolamine
apomorphine	(Naquasone compounded products)	terfenadine
atropine	hydroxyzine	tetracaine
benzocaine (Anbesol, Capacol)	ipratropium (Atrovent)	theophylline
benzodiazepines	isoflupredone (Predef 2x)	tiludronate disodium (Tildren®;bisphosphonate)
beta blockers	isoxsuprine**	triamcinolone acetonide (Vetalog)
betamethasone (Celestone)	ketamine	trichlormethiazide (formerly in Naquasome)
bethanechol chloride	lembuterol (Ventipulmin)	tripelennamine
bupivacaine (Marcaine)	lidocaine**	tropicamide
buprenorphine (Bruprenex)	medetomidine (Domitor)	xylazine (Rompun, AnaSed)
butorphanol (Torbugesic)	mepivacaine (Carbocaine V)	xylocaine
camphor	methocarbamol**	
cetirizine (Zyrtec)**	methylprednisolone (DepoMedrol)	
chlorothiazide	metformin	
chlorpheniramine	morphine	
Ciclesonide (Aserveo® EquiHaler®)	naloxone	
clodronate disodium (Osphos® bisphosphonate)	nefopam	
codeine	nitroglycerin	
corticosteroids	opiates	
cypheptadine	orphenadrine citrate	
dantrolene (Dantrium)	oxybutynin (Ditropan)	
desmethylpyrilamine	oxymetazoline	
detomidine (Dormosedan)	passion flower	
dexamethasone**	pentoxifylline	
dextromethorphan	pergolide mesylate	
dextromoramide	phenylephrine	
diazepam (Vallum)	phenytoin	
diphenhydramine	piperacetazine	
dipyrrone (Zimeta)	pramoxine (Caladryl)	
doxapram	prilocaine	
dyphylline	procaine	
epinephrine (adrenaline)	procaine penicillin (penicillin G; intramuscular)	
etamiphylline	promazine	
etidocaine		
fentanyl		

*** See Appendix A.2 for additional regulations for use of medications*

Appendix C: Prohibited (Banned) Substances List

acetophenazine	etodolac	night shade
alfentanil	etomidate	oxymetazoline (Afrin®)
Alpha-casozepine (Zylkene®)	etorphine	oxymorphone
alprazolam	eugenol	paroxetine
amitriptyline (Elavil)	fenfluramine	pentazocine
amphetamines	fenspiride	pentobarbital
apomorphine	fentiazac	phencyclidine
arsenic	fluanisone	phenibut
ashwaghandha	fluoxetine (Prozac)	phenobarbital
azaperone	fluphenazine (Prolixin) GABA	phentermine
barbiturates	gabapentin (Neurontin)	phenylpropanolamin e piperacetazine
belladonna	ginger root	pirenperone
benperidol	guanabenz (Wytensin)	prazepam
bisphosphonates (except those FDA approved for equine use) boldenone	haloperidol	prethcamide
bromperidol	homotropine	procaterol
bumetanide	hydrocodone	prochlorperazine
buspirone	hydromorphone	procyclidine
caffeine	imipramine	propentofylline
cannabinoids including CBD (Cannabidiol) (synthetic & natural) and other	kava	propiomazine
cannabimimetics	kava	propionylpromazine
capsaicin	ketorola	propoxyphene
carfentanil	c laurel	propranolol
carisoprodol (“Soma-tabs”)	leopard’s bane	ractopamine
carprofen (Rimadyl) chloral	levallorphan	(Paylean) rauwolfia
hydrate	levorphanol	red poppy
chloralbutanol	lithium	reserpine (Serpasil)
chlorpromazine (Thorazine)	lorazepam (Ativan)	risperidone
chlorprothixene	LSD	sertraline
clozapine	mabuterol	sodium
cocaine	mazindol	cacodylate
comfrey	meclizine	spiperone
cyclobenzaprin	medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA; Depo-Provera)	sufentanil
e devil’s claw	meloxicam	stanozolol (Winstrol- V) strychnine
dextromoramid	meperidine	sumatriptan
e dezocine	mepenzolate	synephrine
digoxin	bromide	terbutaline
dipremorphine	mephentermine	sulfate
doxepin	meprylcaine	testosterone
droperidol	methadone	THC
	methaqualone	theobromine
	methamphetamine	tolmetin
	methyldopa	tramadol
	methylphenidate (Ritalin) metomidate	trazodone

**Appendix C: Prohibited (Banned)
Substances List Continued**

dyphylline	milnperone	trifluoperidol
ephedrine	molindone	trihexyphenidyl
epoetin alfa	moperone	valerian
erythropoetin (EPO)	nalbuphine	vervain
ethacrynic acid	nalmefene	zilpatero
ethchlorvynol	nandrolone	
ethyl alcohol	nikethamide	
	nitrazepam	