




HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

# HRV RACE DAY VETERINARY EXAMINATION POLICY

Approved by:		Date of Approval	
Chief Steward		10/10/2022	
Business Unit	Document Owner		Document Writer
Integrity	GM Integrity		Stewards - Chairman
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1	Apr 2016	New Edition	
2	Oct 2022	Updated to reflect current practice;	
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 <p>HARNESS RACING VICTORIA</p>	<h1>HRV Race Day Veterinary Examination Policy</h1>	<p>INT-PO-019 (01 APR 2016)</p>
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## 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the requirements for pre- and post-race day veterinary examinations of horses by official on-course veterinarians.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all licensed participants, including owners, drivers and trainers.

## 3. Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR)

The AHRR provides the necessary powers for Stewards to order a horse to be examined in any manner in which they deem appropriate.

AHRR 15(1)(k) states:

15(1) Stewards are empowered –

(k) to inspect, examine or test in such manner as they consider appropriate any person, horse, racetrack, stable, stud, artificial breeding station or other place, item, document, equipment, vehicle, or substance.

## 4. VETERINARY EXAMINATIONS

### 1.1 When are examinations conducted?

The following horses should be examined by the official on-course veterinarian **prior** to competing:


- Horses which have attained an age of twelve (12) years of age or older;
- Horses which have started in two hundred (200) or more races;
- Horses which have not raced for twelve (12) months or longer;
- Horses which raced the day prior.

The following horses should be examined **after** competing:

- Horses which have attained an age of twelve (12) years of age or older;
- Horses which have started in two hundred (200) or more races;
- Horses who have raced more than once at a race meeting;
- Horses which have not raced for twelve (12) months or longer;
- Horses which are engaged to race the day immediately following.

### 1.2 Examination Type

The type of examination to be conducted is at the sole discretion of the officiating veterinarian. The HRV Stewards will be guided by the advice provided by the official on-course veterinarian as to the suitability of a horse to fulfil any immediate racing engagement.

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### 1.3 Licensed Participant Requirements

A licensed person and/or registered owner shall not hinder or fail to assist the official on-course veterinarian in their examination of a horse.

Any failure to adhere to the requirements of this policy may result in action being taken against that person under the provisions of Australian Harness Racing Rule 238 which states:

***“A person shall not fail to comply with any order, direction, or requirement of the Controlling Body or the Stewards relating to harness racing or to the harness racing industry.”***