



NAF SUPPORT

**CLEAN SPORT**

**M**ore than ever, people are realising the implications and importance of understanding what they are feeding, as the subject of clean sport has recently come to the forefront of all equestrian disciplines.

As official supplier to the British equestrian teams and renowned for being the leading supplement manufacturer in the UK, NAF discusses the impact of clean sport and the assumption that people competing in local and national competitions do not come under international FEI ruling.

### What is a prohibited substance?

This is a phrase used frequently within our industry and is a broad, all-encompassing definition for any substance that can have a physiological effect on a horse. A naturally occurring prohibited substance (NOPS) is one that is either naturally present within a particular ingredient, or one that occurs as a result of inadvertent cross contamination during processing prior to the ingredients arriving at the manufacturing facility. Dr. Sara Matthews, NAF's quality and technical manager, is responsible for quality assurance and doping control measures. "NAF test every batch of every product that goes through the manufacturing plant and exceeds the

expectations of industry accreditations for manufacturing, best practice and quality control," she says.

NAF felt it was important to highlight the recent decision to add Devil's Claw (active ingredient Harpagoside) to the FEI prohibited substances list as of 1st January 2016.

There has been much confusion in recent years as to whether the ingredient Devil's Claw was actually approved for use during competition or not. It has never been banned until now under FEI rules; however the BHA and some individual member states within the EU had barred its use in competition during recent years.

In many ways, the decision to now include it on the FEI list makes that grey area clearer for competitors, who will now have to find a competition-safe alternative for comfort whenever their horses need it. As part of their commitment to providing the best advice for their customers, NAF will be clearly communicating that the well-established and popular Devil's Relief, the only product in the NAF portfolio to contain Devil's Claw, is now not advised for use during competition.

NAF Devil's Relief has been used for many years by horse owners who do not participate in competition, and it remains perfectly legal and appropriate for maintaining comfort in many horses, particularly the older individuals.

It will continue to be available in store to meet consumer demand. However, as part of NAF's commitment to quality and clean sport all Devil's Relief will be manufactured in a dedicated, controlled facility.

NAF are proud to be accredited as a Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) company and meet the requirements of the strict BETA NOPS (Naturally Occurring Prohibited Substances) code to ensure control of prohibited substances, and ultimately the provision of a Clean Sport.

### How do you know who you can trust?

There is an understandable assumption that, because a product is sold in a tack shop or feed merchant and can be purchased over the counter without a veterinary prescription, it is safe to compete on. This is incorrect, and it is imperative to look for trusted brands if you are intending to compete at any level.

There are some accreditations that can help you decide which companies can be trusted. Firstly, always choose a registered feed business operator, (FBO) — the registration number must be quoted on the label. This ensures that the company will have the required levels of hygiene and traceability, and have a HACCP (hazard analysis and critical control points) plan, which assesses the production process for feed safety issues. Feed, supplements and applications are under much scrutiny and monitored very closely by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), Food Standards Agency (FSA), Trading Standards and in some instances the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), but it is not illegal to place ingredients not suitable for competition use in products.

Always look at the label, which must consist of the required analytical constituents, and listings of feed materials and certain additives. Each product must have a batch number and best before date clearly shown on the label, and containers should be sealed in a tamper evident way.

Also note that all claims made about a product on marketing and advertising material must be substantiated. NAF has its own dossier of



scientific evidence to support any claims made about a product's benefits, and it is the responsibility of the FBO that the marketing claims made about any supplement are legal and substantiated.

NAF is also a Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) accredited company, and as such adhere to stringently high quality control standards in how products are manufactured. It also guarantees full traceability — of all natural ingredients used, right to source — and NAF is proud to have been one of the first companies in the UK to meet the strict manufacturing requirements of the UFAS British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) NOPS\* code to ensure the control of NOPS, another logo worth looking out for. To learn more about BETA NOPS please contact NAF for your free guide.

### What should you do?

It is ultimately the rider's responsibility to ensure that the horse or pony they are riding has not been given any substance that will result in a breach of the rules.

Horse owners have a duty to ensure clean sport is upheld. When feed has been purchased from a tack shop or feed merchant, it should be stored in a safe, secure container, free from rodent infestation which could lead to potential contamination. When mixing multiple feeds, be aware of cross contamination when stirring.

Perhaps one of the most overlooked potential risks of contamination is the cup of coffee drunk or the bar of chocolate eaten in the feed room, as both caffeine and cocoa (theobromine) are prohibited substances. It is awareness of the potential dangers of these everyday practices that can help to ensure clean sport is maintained, and positive tests are kept at bay. It is also important to be aware that horses can be tested for prohibited substances at all levels of Dressage, Showjumping and Eventing from Club level through to Olympic level.

