

**UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS
POLICY STATEMENT**

SUBJECT: VETERINARY CARE AND EQUINE MEDICATIONS

POLICY NO: 0525

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/04/94

REVISED DATE: 11/05/01

I. PHILOSOPHY:

In order to: 1) encourage Pony Club members to develop an understanding of the value of veterinary care and the use of equine medications and supplements, 2) promote the safety of Pony Club members and their mounts, and 3) provide competition that is not biased by the use of equine medications and supplements, the Board of Governors recognizes that veterinary care is an integral part of horse management at mounted activities and competitions, and that it has an obligation to establish a policy on the use of equine medications and supplements.

II. POLICY STATEMENT:

The policy of the Board of Governors is that all mounts in a USPC-sponsored activity be serviceably sound and healthy. Horses should be free of medication other than dressings for minor wounds or scrapes, unless under treatment by a veterinarian. Medications and supplements may not be used to provide an unfair advantage over other competitors or to allow an unfit horse to be used.

III. AMPLIFYING INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES:

- A. Medication is defined as any substance that is not water, salt, electrolytes, or a supplement and is not considered a normal foodstuff. It is administered either orally, via stomach tube, by application to an external surface, or by injection.
- B. Supplements (including vitamins and nutraceuticals) are substances that are added to a horse's diet that are not normal foodstuffs or medications.
- C. Any horse under treatment by a veterinarian for a condition requiring administration of a medication while at a Pony Club activity or competition shall have a veterinarian's certificate stating the diagnosis, medication, dosage and method of administration.
- D. Supplements that are administered to any horse at a Pony

Club activity or competition must be recorded on the horse's feed chart and stall card.

- E. Medications or supplements may only be administered by the owner of the horse, or by a person designated by the owner of the horse.
- F. If, during the course of an activity, it becomes necessary to administer a tranquilizer, stimulant, or depressant (e.g. for suturing) the horse may not be used while under the influence of the medication.
- G. Competitors at a rally shall be governed by the procedures on the use of equine medications and supplements described in the Horse Management Handbook.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

- A. The DC and RS shall have the responsibility for this policy at the local and national level.
- B. The Vice Presidents of Instruction, Activities, and Regional Administration shall have oversight of this policy.

V. ENACTMENT:

Established: _____ Date: 11/05/01
Board President