

## **Federal Law No.7 of 2015**

Issued on 25/03/2015

Corresponding to 5 Jumada Al-Akhira 1436 H

**ON**

### **COMBATING BANNED SUBSTANCES IN HORSE RACING AND EQUESTRIAN SPORTS**

We, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates State,

- After perusal of the Constitution;
- Federal Law no. 1 of 1972 on Competencies of the Ministries and Powers of the Ministers and amendments thereof;
- Federal Law No. 4 of 1979 on the Suppression of Fraud and Deception in Commercial Transactions;
- Federal Law No. 3 of 1987 on the Promulgation of the Penal Code and amendments thereof;
- Federal Law No. 35 of 1992 on the Promulgation of the Criminal Procedure Law and amendments thereof;
- Federal Law No. 10 of 2002 on the Practice of the Veterinary Profession;
- Federal Law No. 16 of 2007 on Animal Protection;
- Based on the Minister of Environment and Water proposition, as approved by the Cabinet and the Federal National Council and as ratified by the Federal Supreme Council,

Issue the following Law:

#### **Article 1- Definitions**

In application of the provisions of this Law, the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings stated beside them, unless the context requires otherwise:

State: The United Arab Emirates.

Ministry: The Ministry of Environment and Water.

Minister: The Minister of Environment and Water.

Authority: Emirates Racing Authority established by the Prime Minister Decision No. 11 of 2006.

Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports: Any local, regional or international official contest or competition dedicated to horses, including without limitation, events related to horse dressage, beauty, speed, capacity and endurance, jump racing and polo.

Competent Authority: The federal or local competent authority in charge of horse racing and equestrian sports in the State.

Horses: Horses competing in horse races and equestrian sports.

Owner: The owner or custodian of the horse.

Facility: Any party in the State boarding, breeding and training horses, and making horses compete in horse racing and equestrian sports, or trading in horses fodder, food supplements or veterinary drugs and substances.

Specialist: The jockey, horse trainer and veterinary physician, the technicians and all those working in stables and any person working with horses with the aim of their participation in horse racing and equestrian sports

Means: The use of electrical, mechanical and electronic techniques and tools or any other means that can affect the race results.

Banned substances: All drugs, means and any other banned substances specified in the Implementing Regulation of the Law.

Control: Control includes carrying out tests, collecting, processing, examining and analysing samples in laboratories, investigating aforesaid and then announcing results thereof.

Trade: Importing, exporting, possessing, preparing, manufacturing, storing, packaging, transporting, distributing, delivering, offering, selling or providing others with banned substances.

Restrictive substances: Substance used for therapeutic purposes and banned in horse racing and equestrian sports due to their effect on competitions results.

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## **Article 2- Objectives of the Law**

This Law aims at accomplishing the following:

1. Combat the trade or use of banned substances in horse racing and equestrian sports in the State.
2. Protect fair competition in horse racing and equestrian sports, enhance the principle of sportsmanship and abolish fraud.
3. Support and encourage research on combating banned substances in horse racing and equestrian events and help develop the detection of trade and use of such substances, in order to maximise the effectiveness of preventive strategies.
4. Continuously instruct owners and specialists on the danger of the use of banned substances.

## **Article 3- Trade of Banned and Restricted Substances**

1. The trade of banned substances is prohibited unless with a licence granted in accordance with the legislation in force.
2. The trade of restricted substances is allowed for therapeutic purposes to treat horses but it is not allowed in the field of horse racing and equestrian sports due to their impact on the results of the competitions.

## **Article 4- Approvals to Use the Restrictive Substances for Therapeutic and Research Purposes**

The Ministry shall grant its approval to use restrictive substances for therapeutic and research purposes. The implementing regulation of this Law shall specify the conditions for granting and cancelling such approval for therapeutic purposes and research, and their term.

## **Article 5- Specifying the Lists of Banned and Restricted Substances and their Amendments**

1. The implementing regulation shall specify the lists of banned and restricted substances in horse racing and equestrian sports.
2. Aforementioned lists may be amended whether by addition or removal by decision of the Minister.

## **Article 6- Competencies of the Ministry and Competent Authority**

The Ministry or the competent authority shall handle, as the case may be, the following functions:

1. Set and take measures to control the trade and the use of banned substances in horse racing and equestrian sports, during racing periods or not.
2. Control horses competing in horse racing and equestrian sports organised in the State.
3. Establish and accredit laboratories specialised in testing samples taken from the horses to make sure no banned substances were given to them
4. Take samples from horses, transport them to accredited laboratories for analysis, preserve such samples, ensure their safety and announce results pursuant to decisions issued in respect thereof.
5. Develop a national program to monitor banned substances pursuant to the requirements determined in respect thereof.
6. Intercept violations committed to the provisions of this Law or decisions issued by virtue thereof, and take necessary measures against violating parties.
7. Develop and execute specialised training and awareness programs in the field of combating banned substances in horse racing and equestrian sports, and provide necessary information on such substances, their negative effects on the horse health, and consequences of their use.
8. Undertake specialised researches and studies in the field of combating banned substances in horse racing and equestrian sports, and on precautionary and identification methods related thereto.
9. Exchange expertise with organisations and parties specialised in combating banned substances, at local, regional or international levels.
10. Participate in conferences, seminars and workshops specialised in the field of combating banned substances.
11. Receive complaints related to the trade, use or attempt to use banned substances, verify the validity of such complaints and take necessary measures in respect thereof.

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12. Any other task or duties assigned by the Cabinet and considered necessary to achieve the objectives of this Law.

### **Article 7- Prohibited Acts**

It is prohibited to do the following acts:

1. Giving or injecting or attempting to give or inject any banned substance to horses in any way or manner.
2. Using banned substances without obtaining a licence from the Ministry.
3. Disclosing, by the specialists, any data on the samples taken or any information related to the horse from which the samples were taken or to their owners.
4. Existence of a banned substance or any of its metabolic components or any trace thereof in the sample taken from the horse body or blood.
5. Refusing to test the horses or to take samples to verify if banned substances were used or not.
6. Refusing to submit necessary information on the location and source of banned substances.
7. Manipulating or attempting to manipulate any of the control procedures on the use of banned substances.
8. Helping, agreeing with, encouraging or covering the owner in any operation related to giving banned substances to horses.
9. Any other act related to the trade or use of banned substances in horse racing and equestrian sports in the State.

### **Article 8- Obligations of the Facility**

The Facilities operating in the field of horse products such as fodders, food supplements and veterinary drugs and substances shall commit to display a label on such products, showing their components, chemical composition, side effects, source, and production and expiry dates.

### **Article 9- Liabilities of the Owner and the Specialist**

The owner and specialist shall commit to the following:

1. Immediately notify the Authority of any prohibited act committed by any facility or individual, as prescribed in Article 7 herein.
2. Take all necessary measures to prevent the use of any banned substance.

### **Article 10- Penalties**

1. Without prejudice to any other severer sanctions provided for in any other Law, anyone who violates any provision of this Law will be punished by a fine not less than twenty thousand (20,000) dirham and not more than two hundred thousand (200,000) dirham.
2. The fine stipulated in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be doubled in the event of recurrence within three years as of the date of committing the previous offence, but shall not exceed five hundred thousand (500,000) dirham.
3. In addition to the fine stipulated in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the Ministry or the competent authority may take, as the case may be, the following measures against the violator:
  - a. Disallow the violator to participate in horse racing and equestrian sports for a period not exceeding three years.
  - b. Disallow the violator to work in the field of horse racing and equestrian sports for a period not exceeding three years.
  - c. Close the violating facility for a period not exceeding there years.
  - d. Annul the licence of the violating facility.
  - e. In case of recurrence, remove the violator from horse racing and equestrian sports records.

### **Article 11- Judicial Police**

The employees of the Ministry and competent authority, as appointed by decision of the Minister of Justice in coordination with the Minister, shall have the capacity of judicial officers to report any violations to the provisions of this Law or the decisions issued by virtue thereof.

### **Article 12- Application of Sports Competitions Rules**

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Application of the penalties and measures stipulated in Article 10 herein shall not obstruct the application of the penalties stipulated in the regulations in force on horse racing and equestrian sports.

**Article 13- Implementing Regulation**

The Cabinet shall issue, based on the Minister's proposition, the implementing regulation of this Law within a maximum period of six months as of the date of publication of this Law<sup>1</sup>.

**Article 14- Abrogation of Provisions in Conflict**

Any provision in any other Law contrary to the provisions of this Law shall be hereby abrogated.

**Article 15- Publication and Entry into Force**

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force the day following its publication.

Issued in the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi:

On: 5 Jumada Al-Akhira 1436 H

Corresponding to: 25/03/2015

**Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

**President of the United Arab Emirates**

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<sup>1</sup> The Implementing Regulation of this Federal Law was issued by virtue of Cabinet Decision No. 13 dated 30/03/2015, mention is in order.