

## **Bupivacaine Advisory**

January 26, 2022

Bupivacaine is a long-acting local anesthetic. It has FDA approval in a liposomal formulation for the control of post-operative pain in dogs and cats as Nocita™ (Elanco US). Bupivacaine is assigned 2/A in the ARCI's [Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances](#). It is not associated with a regulatory threshold and there is no withdrawal guidance for its use in proximity to a race.

Horsemen are advised against the use of this product in racehorses for the following reasons:

- The [Schedule of Controlled Therapeutic Substances](#) contains local anesthetics, [lidocaine](#) and [mepivacaine](#), and provides withdrawal guidance should their use be required for wound repair in relative proximity to a race.
- The use of bupivacaine is not indicated for diagnostic regional anesthesia or nerve blocks.
- A recent administration study (manuscript in preparation) determined bupivacaine has an extended detection time when compared to other local anesthetics (e.g. lidocaine and mepivacaine).
- Should a longer period of local anesthesia be required in a horse, it is reasonable to accept that horse should not be under consideration for racing or training.
- To the extent a racehorse was administered bupivacaine, clearance testing is advisable before racing or training.