



Test Barn Best Practices Guide

Global Symposium on
Racing and Gaming

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Introduction

- This is a best practices document – not a one-sized fits all mandate for defensible testing or chain of custody
- Tool for regulators when reviewing test barn policies and practices
- Guide for tracks to ensure that they are considering test barn set-up and maintenance

Overview

1. Horses Sampled
2. Sample Selection
3. General Test Barn Procedures
4. Sample Collection
5. Sample Processing
6. Sample Management
7. Special Testing
8. Facility
9. Personnel

Horses Sampled



- Which horses?
 - Post-race
 - Out of Competition
 - TCO₂
 - Injured Horses
 - Deceased Horses
 - Claimed Horses
- Each of these categories will have different considerations regarding chain of custody and samples collected



Horses Sampled

One consistent truth:

There is diminished value in blood-only sampling of numerous horses. It is better to have paired (blood and urine) samples on all horses but test fewer...

Horses Sampled

- Once post-race horses are chosen it is important to think about getting them back to the test barn
 - Chain of custody
 - Communication with trainer/grooms – particularly for judge/steward specials



Sample Selection

- Blood only?
- Blood and urine?
- Hair?





Horses Sampled

It bears repeating....

One consistent truth:

There is diminished value in blood-only sampling of numerous horses. It is better to have paired (blood and urine) samples on all horses but test fewer...



General Test Barn Procedures



- Chain of custody is key
 - Sample information (including gender, medications)
 - Witness Signatures
 - Review of documentation
- Security
 - People
 - Horses

Sample Collection



- Communication with laboratory
 - Sample volume
 - Sample handling
- Timing of collection
 - Blood
 - Urine

Sample Collection

- Blood Collection
 - Sealed vacu-tainers whenever possible
 - Discuss tube type with laboratory – even for split sample
 - Collection opposite furosemide administration
 - Witness must have opportunity to inspect and watch sealing of tubes



Sample Collection



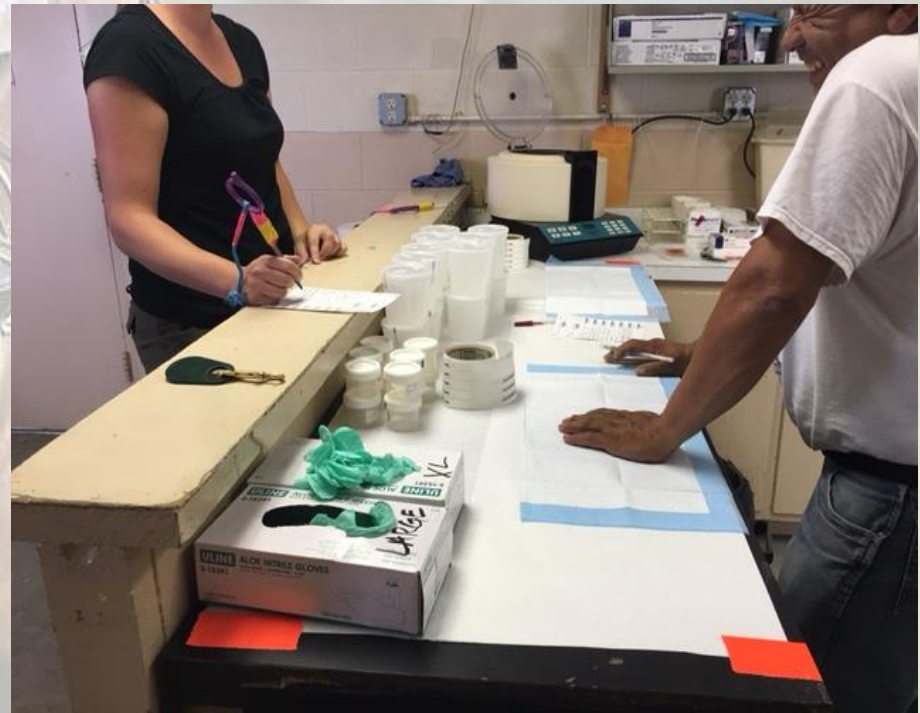
- Urine Collection
 - Free catch
 - Disposable gloves
 - Single use collection cups
- Witness must be afforded opportunity to watch collection to sealing of sample
- Retention time for horses that do not urinate

Sample Collection

- Other Considerations
 - Split Samples
 - Other types of samples (*e.g.*, hair)

Sample Processing

- General:
 - Restricted area
 - Witness must have visibility



Sample Processing



- Blood
 - Discuss procedures with the laboratory
 - Settling time
 - Centrifugation
 - Time to refrigeration

Sample Processing



- Urine

- Splitting sample
- Identification labels and seals on both split and primary sample
- Freezing



Sample Management

- General:
 - Ensure chain of custody remains intact at end of day
- Primary Samples
 - Work with laboratory to ensure proper shipping procedures

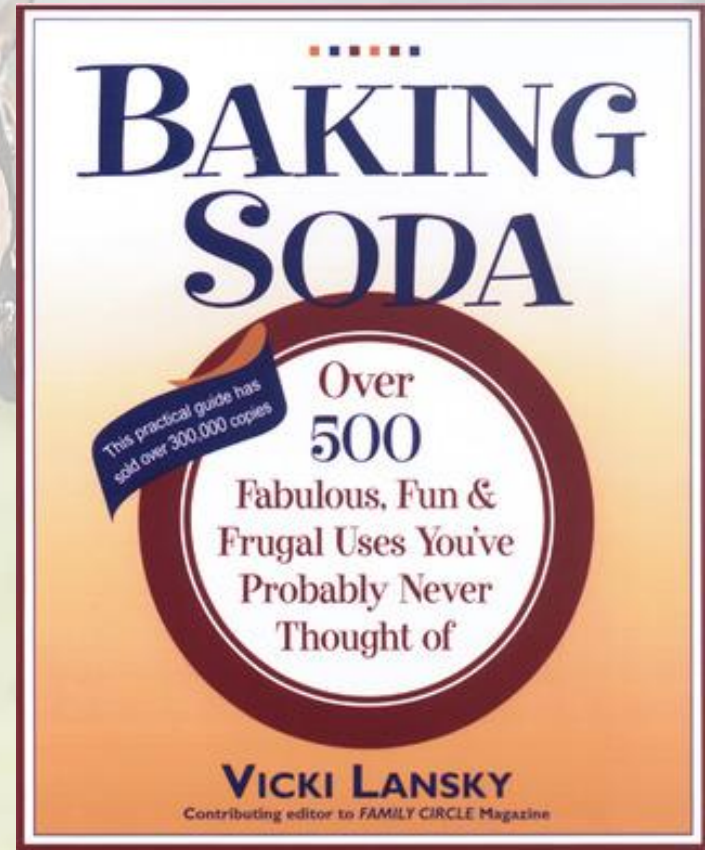


Sample Management

- Split samples
 - Ensure they are stored in a secure manner in accordance with the regulatory authority's rules
 - At test barn versus off-site
 - Maintained until at least samples are cleared
 - Retain suspect samples indefinitely
 - Develop procedure for split sample handling and shipping

Special Testing

- Total Carbon Dioxide (TCO₂)
 - Collection time is important
 - Lab processing time is limited
 - Processing procedure is key (tube, handling, storage temperature)





Special Testing

- Out of Competition Testing
 - Important to have procedures for on-site and off-site; in-state and out of state sampling
 - Who can sample and what they should tell horsemen
 - Which samples are needed and how much
 - Identification of horse
 - Chain of custody documentation
 - Sample handling
 - Shipping requirements/equipment for out of state samples

Facility

- Should consider needs when designing new or improving existing facilities
 - Secured perimeter
 - Security cameras(?)
 - Lines of sight
 - Adequate facility for processing and storing samples



Facility



- Other general considerations
 - Signage
 - Stalls
 - Lighting
 - Ventilation (fans)
 - Equipment
 - Sanitation

Personnel

- General considerations
- Attending veterinarian
- Veterinary Technicians
- Lay Staff
- Integrity concerns





Where is it?



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- Document is available online at:
 - www.rmtcnet.com
 - <http://rmtcnet.com/information/rmtc/>
 - Best Practices Tab
 - www.ntraalliance.com





Thank You





Questions?

