



# FACT SHEET: HEMP OIL USE IN HORSES

Hemp oil is considered a nutritional supplement, not a veterinary drug. With regards to nutritional supplements, EC stresses “Buyer Beware” as they may not be subject to the same rigorous standards as an approved veterinary drug.

Risks of administering supplements can include contamination from a substance not listed in the ingredients, which may result in an unexpected positive drug test.

Hemp products provide an additional concern due to the possibility of the presence of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

The production of industrial hemp in Canada is highly regulated and should only contain very low levels of THC (less than 0.3%). However, as THC is very fat soluble, it could accumulate in the horse’s fat stores, from which it is eliminated very slowly and could cause a positive test, resulting in an infraction.

This [US Anti-Doping Agency article](#) can provide additional insight on the risks with Hemp products.

## Important Reminders Regarding Supplements

- As per the [EC Equine Medication Control Guidelines](#), competitors are cautioned against the use of herbal and natural products, including proprietary medicinal preparations, tonics, pastes, powders, ointments and other topical preparations.
- Such products usually do not carry a drug identification number (DIN), and the labelling of these products is not controlled and often incomplete. They may contain prohibited substances that are not listed on the label, and this could lead to a positive test.
- Be particularly cautious of products that claim to calm or relax the horse, or build muscle.
- Beware of claims from manufacturers stating that a preparation is approved by EC, or guaranteed not to result in a positive test. These claims are false, as EC does not provide approvals or guarantees for equine supplements or drugs.
- It is possible for your veterinarian to submit a sample from your horse on your behalf to Maxxam laboratories for specific analysis for certain medications. Please contact Maxxam for further details and testing costs by visiting <http://maxxam.ca/services/forensic-equine-drug-testing>, emailing [FEDT@maxxam.ca](mailto:FEDT@maxxam.ca) or calling 1-604-638-3251.



## Questions? Comments?

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