



NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

Morphine from Wild Poppies

The wild poppy contains morphine and other opiates which are prohibited substances according to the Australian Rules of Harness Racing. Wild poppy plants have been known to contaminate fodder and cereal crops as weeds, and as a result have also appeared in commercial feeds. The ingestion of these poppies in horse feed can result in detectable amounts of morphine being excreted in urine samples.

The wild poppy whose botanical name is *Papaver somniferum* subspecies *setigerum*, is widely distributed in south eastern Australia from southern Queensland to South Australia. The growing plant has a pale purple flower while the dried flower pods or seed capsules (husks) may appear in fodder and cereal crops. The dry poppy capsules can contain many small black seeds (poppy seeds) whose presence in the bottoms of feed bins may be an indication of contamination of the particular batch of feed with poppy capsules. The poppy capsules are smooth in appearance and can vary from 1.5 to 3 cm in length. They may be still attached to a stalk.

Trainers should take care to ensure that their feeds are not contaminated with wild poppies. Should trainers require assistance in identifying poppy capsules, they should contact their regional Stewards or the HRNSW Veterinarian, Dr Martin Wainscott.

If you require any further information please contact HRNSW on (02) 9722 6600.

REID SANDERS

Manager- Integrity & Chairman of Stewards