

**Ontario  
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Commission**

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**May 14, 2009**

## **Notice to the Industry**

### **Licensee suspended – received DPO from Veterinarian**

As a result of continuing investigations into the prescription and administration of medications prohibited for use in racehorses, on May 11, 2009, the Director ordered the immediate suspension of the ORC licence of Driver/Trainer/Owner **Ross C. Siddall** of Windsor, ON. In addition, the Director has issued a proposed order to suspend his licence for a period of 10 years, with a \$ 40,000 fine.

ORC **Equine Medication Control and Drug Task Force** investigators confirmed that, at all material times, Mr. Siddall was trainer/co-owner of the horse, JOJOs IMAGE. Records received by the ORC showed that a veterinarian currently under immediate suspension prescribed Aranesp<sup>®</sup> (darbapoetin alfa or DPO) to Mr. Siddall and JOJO's IMAGE.

Darbapoetin-alfa (DPO) is classed as a potent long-lasting form of Erythropoietin (EPO). EPO/DPO has no legitimate use for a horse that is racing. It not only places the horse at risk, it imperils the future of the horse racing industry.

Ontario's horse racing community is made up of horsepeople, racetracks and associations. As a key partner in the efforts to protect the integrity of horse racing, that community is demonstrating its support of ORC intelligence-led investigative efforts. The community is also serious about protecting the health of the horse, and serious about maintaining the fairness of horse racing.

Through its regulatory actions, the ORC is fulfilling its mandate and sending a strong message to all involved in racing: that the acquisition, possession, administration, as well as the prescription of illegal and non-therapeutic drugs will not be tolerated.

John L. Blakney  
Executive Director

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