Racing Integrity Board
New Zealand

RIB Advisory - Elective Testing Service – Check Before You Race

Issued 27 October 2026

The Racing Integrity Board (RIB), working with New Zealand Racing Laboratory Services (NZRLS), offers an elective testing service to help trainers manage the risk of prohibited substance breaches before presenting a horse to race.

Testing may be requested following legitimate veterinary treatment where there is uncertainty about medication clearance, or where there is a genuine concern about inadvertent exposure or contamination.

What can be tested?

Testing is limited to identified substances relevant to the treatment or suspected exposure. The service is not a general screen for prohibited substances and is not intended to establish laboratory detection times.

- For veterinary treatment: provide the substance or product, dose, route, frequency and dates of administration, together with relevant treatment records.
- For suspected contamination: identify the potential substance (if known) and explain the circumstances of the possible exposure.
- For horses arriving from another stable: provide the available history and a specific concern about previous treatment or exposure. The RIB will assess whether targeted testing is appropriate.

Bisphosphonates

Where there are concerns about historical bisphosphonate administration, trainers may request targeted testing and should provide available treatment and veterinary records. Given the prolonged persistence of these substances in bone and variable excretion, results require careful interpretation. A negative result does not confirm permanent absence, nor does it establish eligibility to race. This is particularly relevant ahead of the prohibition on administration to racehorses from 1 January 2027.

How to access the service

1. Contact the RIB Veterinary Services Manager at vet@rib.org.nz with the reason for testing and supporting information. Approval is required before any sample is submitted.
2. Once approved, obtain the appropriate sample collection kit and current collection instructions from the RIB.
3. Collect, seal and document the sample as instructed. A urine sample is required for elective testing. Where possible, submission of an additional blood sample is recommended to support a more comprehensive assessment. Courier to NZRLS. Incomplete documentation or incorrectly sealed samples may not be accepted.

Costs and timing

Standard testing for one substance: $230 + GST. Bisphosphonate testing: $500 + GST. Additional testing requirements and costs may apply depending on the substance and will be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Courier costs are the trainer's responsibility. Standard turnaround is generally within three working days, excluding bisphosphonates. Costs and turnaround times should be confirmed when requesting approval.

Important limitations

A negative elective test does not guarantee a negative race-day result.

Use of this Electing Testing Service does not absolve the trainer from their obligations under the Rules of Racing or limit the Rules of Racing in any way

Elective samples do not have the same independently verified collection and chain-of-custody arrangements as regulatory samples, so they cannot be relied on as a defence to a prohibited substance charge. The RIB may grant or withhold approval at its sole discretion.

Further information and approval

RIB Veterinary Services Manager | vet@rib.org.nz | 027 2850 951