



HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

SPECIALIST VETERINARY REFERRAL SUBSIDY PROCEDURE

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Specialist Veterinary Referral Subsidy Procedure

INT-PR-004
(08 Dec 2021)

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the requirements of specialist veterinary referral subsidy that Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) has arranged to support participants by providing financial assistance to licensed persons(s) and/or owners when their horse(s) are injured during a Victorian harness racing meeting. This enables licensed participants to obtain an accurate diagnosis/prognosis for the injured horse at a specialist veterinary referral centre, thus providing optimal animal welfare wherever possible.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all participants interested in obtaining a specialist veterinary subsidy from HRV if their horse is injured during a Victorian harness racing race meeting.

3. DEFINITIONS

HRV Specialist Veterinary Referral Subsidy (SVRS) - SVRS is an initiative that is part HRV's ongoing commitment to improving welfare outcomes for Standardbreds. The initiative supports licensed persons and/or owners by ensuring highest possible level of care is afforded to every horse which may be injured at a Victorian harness racing meeting.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

Licensed persons and/or owners should familiarise themselves with this procedure and ensure that they exercise appropriate due diligence in carrying out their required responsibilities and shall not undertake nor engage in actions that could jeopardise public trust or confidence in the Victorian harness racing industry.

5. PROCEDURE

HRV recognises that the treatment of injuries and other specialist care required for horses can be expensive to some licensed persons and/or the owners. The objective of SVRS is to provide financial assistance to licensed participants in obtaining an accurate diagnosis/prognosis so that informed decisions that optimise the welfare of seriously injured horses can be made.

HRV will reimburse the participant responsible for the affected horse's veterinary care all reasonable off-track veterinary costs for diagnosis and treatment of the horse(s) as part of SVRS, up to a maximum of \$2,500 each including GST.

- The subsidy would cover all Victorian racetracks where horses are competing for prizemoney.
- The participant will have responsibility for the Standardbred, including arranging timely transport to the specialist veterinary referral centre.
- The participant is responsible for paying all costs associated for services provided by the specialist veterinary referral centre account.
- The participant will receive the SVRS as a reimbursement of expenses upon presentation of completed documents (Refer to section 5.4) the specialist veterinary referral centre.



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5.1. What is an approved Specialist Veterinary Referral Centre under the scheme?

For the purposes of the subsidy a 'Specialist Veterinary Referral Centre' would be the following referral centres where the appropriate skill, expertise and diagnostic equipment are available:

- U-Vet Werribee Equine Centre;
- Ballarat Veterinary Practice;
- Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital;
- Bendigo Equine Hospital;
- Morphettville Equine Hospital (covering Mildura race meetings & South Australian participants).

5.2. What injuries/conditions are covered?

Only serious veterinary conditions which have an immediate need for specialist veterinary care would be covered by the subsidy. Examples would include suspected fracture, severe laceration, severe colic, neurological disease etc.

5.3. What is the process of receiving a specialist treatment under the SVRS?

The Veterinarian officiating at the race meeting will provide preliminary assessment and immediate first-aid management to any severely compromised horse. The goal of this initial assessment and treatment is to optimise the welfare of the horse until it can be transported to a specialist veterinary referral centre for accurate diagnosis and treatment. For example, in the instance of a suspected fracture this may include administration of pain relief, stabilisation of the affected area, and formally referring the horse to the specialist veterinary centre.

As part of this process, the officiating veterinarian would complete the SVRS Application Form (INT-FO-020) outlining the suspected injury or condition and any treatment provided on-track. A copy of this form will be provided to the horse's representative, the receiving veterinarian at the referral centre and a copy will be retained by the Stewards.

5.4. What is the process of receiving payment for cost incurred from specialist treatment under the SVRS?

The participant shall submit the paid receipt from the specialist veterinary referral centre along with a completed copy of INT-FO-020 SVRS Application Form to HRV Integrity General Manager. This documentation would then be reviewed by the HRV Veterinary Department and General Manager, Integrity prior to any reimbursement payment being made. Upon approval, payment of the SVRS will be made to the participant via electronic funds transfer.



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6. RECORDS

Documents related to this procedure will be produced in a format that allows tracking for verification and review purposes. Where records are produced, they will be stored in accordance with QMS-PR-001 Records Management.

7. REVIEW

This procedure will be subject to a planned review by General Manager, Integrity and Chairman of Stewards in accordance with the requirements outlined in QMS-PR-002 Document Control Procedure. Other methods for reviewing and evaluating the performance of this procedure will include:

Inspection and audit activity;
Review of corrective actions; and
Incident investigations root cause analysis.

8. RELATED SYSTEM DOCUMENTS

Access to any of the references below shall be via HRV intranet:

Related Policies and Procedures:

INT-FO-020 Specialist Veterinary Referral Subsidy Application Form

INT-PU-012 FAQ Specialist Veterinary Referral Subsidy

9. AUDITABLE OUTPUTS

The following examples of records will be used to verify implementation of this procedure:

- Specialist Veterinary referral subsidy application form;
- Receipts from Specialist Veterinary Referral Service.