

FRANK STRONACH SUPPORTS ELIMINATION OF RACE DAY MEDS IN RACING OWNER-BREEDER-RACETRACK OWNER SUPPORTS EFFORTS FROM WHOA HAY OATS AND WATER ALLIANCE SOLIDLY BEHIND NATIONWIDE DRUG BAN

Frank Stronach has come out in support of a ban on race day medication as proposed in legislation before congress that was spearheaded by efforts from the Kentucky-based WHOA (Hay Oats and Water Alliance).

The organization's name reflects those elements deemed correct by WHOA to be in the system of a racehorse and nothing else on race days.



Stronach has been the leading North American breeder for several years, his racing stable has won many Breeders' Cup races and he operates some of the most important racetracks in the world, most notably Santa Anita Park.

In a statement issued to WHOA, Stronach said "Over the past several years, there has been much discussion and concern within the Thoroughbred industry, as well as from the public, regarding a ban on the use of race day medications.

Frank Stronach solidly behind efforts of WHOA.

"I feel strongly that the sport of Thoroughbred racing can not only survive the elimination of race-day medications but flourish and invigorate itself while cultivating new fans from around the world. The breeding industry will become more vigorous, our horses will become stronger, and our jockeys will be safer.

"We as track operators, horsemen and regulators must do everything we can to eliminate race-day medications and consider the support of federal legislation to create a more uniform set of rules and regulations. The integrity of our sport and the safety of our athletes, both human and equine, should and must always be of paramount concern. I hope you join me in promoting the elimination of all race day medications."

To visit the WHOA website go to www.waterhoyoatsalliance.com.

The Canadian-based entrepreneur, whose company The Stronach Group owns six major race tracks, including Santa Anita Park, Gulfstream Park, and Pimlico Race Course, becomes the first major track owner to join the group of influential owners and breeders pushing for the United States and Canada to join the rest of the world's major jurisdictions in banning all medications, including anti-bleeder medicines and painkillers, on race day.

Interestingly Santa Anita has become the go-to facility for the Breeders' Cup, a company that initiated a race day ban on Lasix, only to ease those restriction beginning next year. Stronach's position could strengthen anti-drug horsemen and owners' position with the California pro-Lasix crowd.