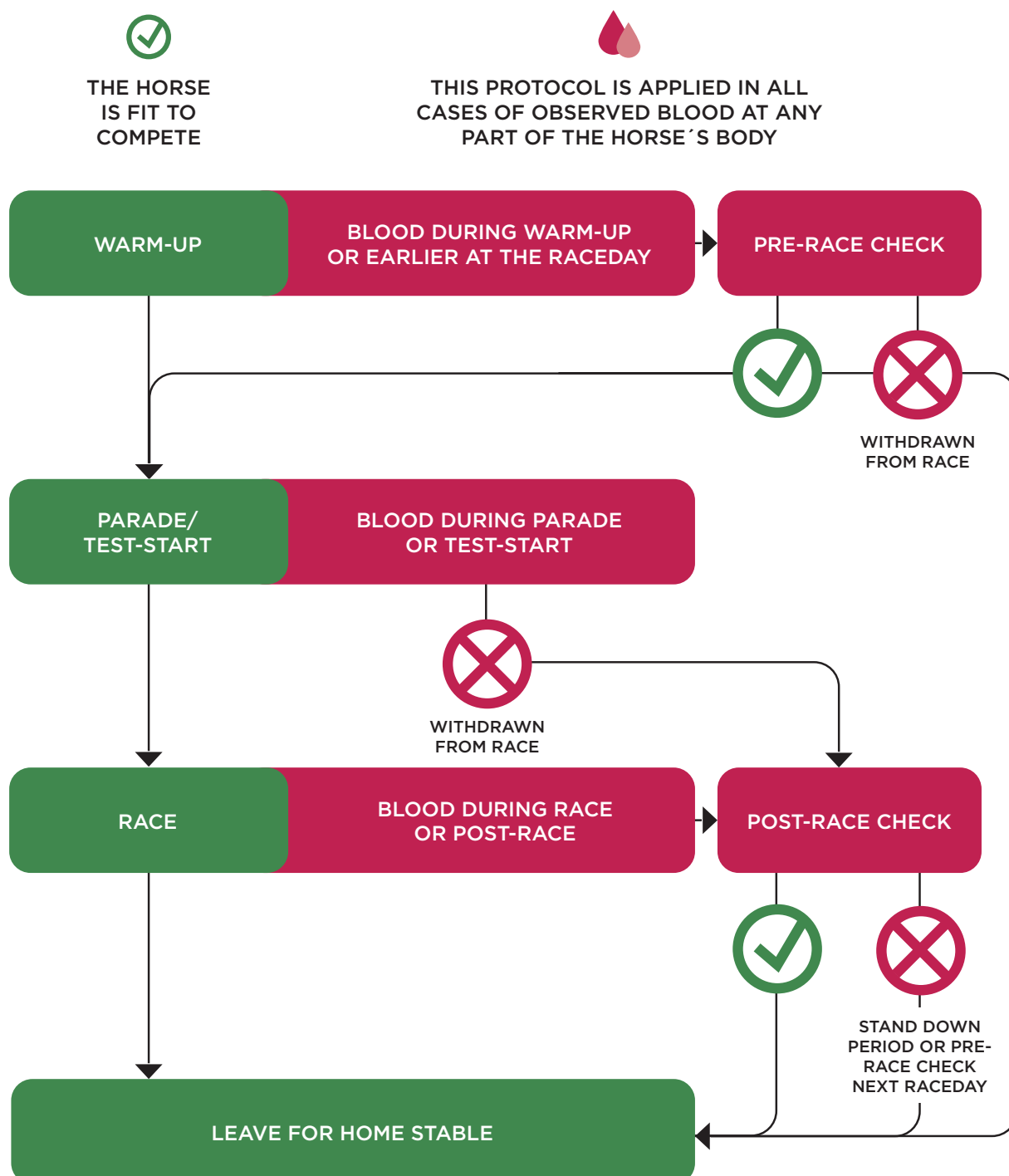


PROTOCOL FOR HANDLING CASES OF BLOOD ON HORSES AT RACEDAYS

THE TRAINER CHECKS THE HORSE AND THE EQUIPMENT AT THE HOME STABLE



PROTOCOL FOR HANDLING CASES OF BLOOD ON HORSES AT RACEDAYS

On 1 January 2025, the Swedish Trotting Association introduced a protocol for handling cases of blood on horses at racedays. The purpose of this protocol is to ensure a standardized assessment of all cases at all racetracks. According to the Swedish animal welfare legislation, a horse that is trained and raced must be free from injury and disease that can be assumed to cause suffering. The horse must be fit to compete, and the trainers is always responsible for the welfare of the horse.

THIS PROTOCOL IS APPLIED IN ALL CASES OF OBSERVED BLOOD AT ANY PART OF THE HORSE'S BODY:

BEFORE THE RACE

- If blood is observed during warm-up or earlier, the horse will be examined before the race. If there is no open wound and blood no longer can be observed, the horse can be considered as fit to compete depending on the findings.
- If blood is observed in the parade ring, during the parade, in a test start or later, the horse will be withdrawn from the race. It is difficult to perform a secure examination under these conditions, and it is highly unlikely that there will be no observed blood in time for the race.
- If blood is observed so close to the start that withdrawal of the horse would be a safety risk, the horse will be allowed to race (if the starting car has accelerated or after the command "Klart" in circular volt start). The horse will be examined after the race.

DURING THE RACE

- If blood is observed during the race, the horse will be examined after the race.

AFTER THE RACE

- If blood is observed after the race, the horse will be examined.

ASSESSMENT

- The official veterinarian or the board of judges decides if the horse will be withdrawn from the race.
- An examination will always be performed in cases of blood on a horse. Sanctions are decided by the board of judges depending on the findings from the examination.
- Horses with oral wounds (with or without blood) will receive a stand down period of 10 days to ensure healing. No stand down period will be applied in obvious cases of blood from mild bite marks on the tongue, or from a loose deciduous tooth.
- Horses with skin lesions will not automatically receive a stand down period. Directed examinations can be performed at the next raceday, and in recurrent cases the horse can receive a stand down period of 10 days.