

# Buyers request 22 steroid tests at July sale

BUYERS requested anabolic steroid tests on 22 horses sold at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July sale of selected yearlings.

The July 14-15 sale was the first yearling sale where steroid tests were offered and the first time that Fasig-Tipton offered the tests. The first auction to offer steroid testing was the 2008 Keeneland January horses of all ages sale, where one horse was tested with a resulting negative test.

The conditions of sale for the July auction included a 45-day ban on anabolic steroids. Buyers could mark a box on the sales slip asking for the test for a fee of \$500.

None of the 22 yearlings tested returned a positive test for anabolic steroids, according to Fasig-Tipton Director of Marketing Terence Collier.

In the case of a positive, the seller would pay the \$500, and the buyer would gain the right to void the sale.

"We didn't have any idea what the response would be, but we were prepared to do as few or as many tests as necessary," said Fasig-Tipton Chief Operating Officer Boyd Browning Jr. "The implementation of the policy was a positive step, and I think this new condition of sale was widely received in positive fashion by buyers and sellers. We're glad it's in place."

Bloodstock agent Neil Winick requested the test for all four of the yearlings he signed for on behalf of Castletop Stable.

"I'm going to take every bounce for the ounce," Winick said. "I'm going to get as much information as I can for my owner. If the horse is carrying steroids or not, that's information. I think this test is a good thing because it makes more information available."

When asked if he thought the 45-day ban on anabolic steroids had affected the horses at the July sale, pinhooker Niall Brennan said perhaps.

"I'd say there were maybe less [horses that looked like they were on steroids]," Brennan said. "You still see some that you say to yourself, 'That was a bottle job.' This is a tough sale to come to for a seller. You know you have to bring a mature individual here. That's been the mentality for several years.

"There are a lot of the nicer horses here that we're all on that won't look any better next February or March. You buy them thinking you'd be happy if they look that good when you sell them eight months later. Seven or eight years ago, half the sale wouldn't have looked this good."—*Pete Denk and John P. Sparkman*

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