

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Racehorse Welfare and Safety -

Safeguards Specific to Del Mar 2017

Following the 2016 Del Mar summer season, the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) conducted separate meetings with jockeys, owners, trainers, veterinarians and track management in an effort to identify factors that may have contributed to racehorse fatalities. Each group expressed alarm and concern over the losses and agreed that changes needed to be made. As a result, the following measures will be implemented for the 2017 race meet at Del Mar:

1. The CHRB will have four Official (State) Veterinarians as well as track vets on site at Del Mar. Horses on the grounds at Del Mar will be continually scrutinized, with those deemed vulnerable to injury identified and isolated for enhanced examinations. Working with InCompass, the primary software for racing office applications, all horses entering the stable area at Del Mar or recording timed workouts at auxiliary training facilities will be tracked. Immediately following the taking of entries, a report will be automatically generated listing horses that:

- are 4 year olds that have never started;
- have ever been placed on the Veterinarian's List for injury or lameness;
- have ever been placed on the Stewards' List for poor performance.
- have not started in 120 days or more.

The identified horses will be subject to multiple examinations and may be subjected to diagnostic imaging; and the Official Veterinarian may recommend to the Stewards that horses deemed unfit to compete be prohibited from entering.

2. In addition to racing days, Official Veterinarians and the Safety Steward will be assigned to monitor training during dark days as feasible.
3. In order to reduce congestion during training, Del Mar management has:
 - reduced stall allocations from 2,050 to 1850.
 - implemented periods during training during which only horses performing timed workouts are permitted on the racetrack.
4. Finally, Del Mar has hired a new track superintendent, Dennis Moore, who also maintains the surface at Santa Anita. Under his direction, banking into and out of the turns has been completely rebuilt at a cost of nearly \$1 million. Track maintenance practices and schedules have been changed to mimic those of Santa Anita, and the number of days allocated for track renovation and preparation between the close of the fair and opening of the meet has been extended from 10 days in 2016 to 15 days this year.

Existing Safeguards

These changes mentioned above are in addition to the many other programs and procedures the CHRB already has in place to protect horses and other racing participants. Our primary responsibility is the safety of horses and riders. Here is a short list of policies and practices currently in place:

- Safety stewards are assigned to each racetrack to enforce rules and procedures designed to insure the health and safety of racehorses. This responsibility requires safety stewards to spend considerable time in the stable areas and race track monitoring environmental safety and proper treatment of horses. Dangerous working conditions and mistreatment of horses are not tolerated.
- Any situation deemed to be placing horses or individuals working with them at risk is corrected. All rule violations are investigated and enforcement action taken when indicated (e.g., in 2015 the Board fined a trainer \$160,000 and suspended his license for the administration of a prohibited substance).
- The CHRB has a specific animal welfare provision in its regulations to prosecute cruelty, mistreatment, neglect or abuse. When appropriate, cases can be and are referred to local law enforcement for criminal prosecution.
- CHRB investigators are sworn police officers, whose duties include patrolling the stable areas at all California racetracks and authorized training facilities.
- Since 1992 the CHRB has contracted with the University Of California School Of Veterinary Medicine at Davis (UC Davis) to provide a veterinarian to serve as Equine Medical Director (EMD). The EMD is the Board's primary advisor on all issues related to medication and drug testing, the practice of veterinary medicine, and the health and safety of horses.
- The Kenneth L Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at UC Davis is widely recognized as one of the premier testing facilities in the world and provides the CHRB with an effective drug testing program. Routine testing at Maddy exceeds "Super Test" criteria on each and every sample and tests for more than 1,800 substances. Last year alone the Maddy Lab conducted such tests on more than 40,000 samples from racehorses in California. There were only 6 positives for Class 1, 2 or 3 prohibited substances in FY 2016-17. The laboratory routinely adds new drugs and analytical tests as new information becomes available and has a world renowned equine pharmacology research program. In addition, with funding support from the CHRB and the Jockey Club, the Maddy Lab hired an additional chemist dedicated to the work of detecting and preventing emerging threats, such as gene doping. The work will include development of the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP), or biomarker research. The fundamental principle of the ABP is to monitor selected biological variables over time that indirectly reveal the effects of doping rather than attempting to detect the doping substance or method itself.
- Since 2008 CHRB has allowed for the automatic deduction from the owners' shares of net purses for the express purpose of helping support California thoroughbred retirement/rehabilitation facilities that provide care and services to retired thoroughbreds. More than 80 percent of thoroughbred owners voluntarily participate in this program.
- The Board has adopted the toughest rule in the country governing the use of the riding crop (whip). Construction requirements for riding crops restricting length and weight and adding foam padding

requirements were added in 2010. The rule prohibiting overuse of the crop was stringently enforced, and then in 2015 the Board imposed additional restrictions further limiting its use.

- California has been on the forefront of medication reform. California was among the first racing jurisdictions in the United States to prohibit anabolic steroids in racing in 2008 and has adopted the national uniform medication program that restricts the use of a number of drugs and imposes limitations on the use of corticosteroids. California was the first state to adopt a rule giving the Board authority to greatly restrict the overuse of Clenbuterol at racetracks.
- California has led the country with its rule to void claims (in-race sales) of any horse placed on the Veterinarian's list for unsoundness or for visibly bleeding following a race. This has been applauded by industry stakeholders as a major step in the prevention of unsound horses competing when they shouldn't be.
- A CHRB rule prohibits the running of pregnant mares racing after 120 days of gestation.
- Since 1990 the CHRB has contracted with the University of California at Davis (UC Davis) CAHFS laboratory to conduct necropsies (autopsy) on all horses dying within CHRB inclosures. Postmortem examinations have provided valuable information on how injuries occur, which has allowed the CHRB and racing industry to use the information to reduce them.
- All tracks in California participate in the national Equine Injury Database program, another source of information to monitor safety and prevent serious injuries.
- The CHRB has an ongoing Racing Safety Program. Specifically assigned safety stewards monitor track surfaces independently and work with all racing associations to maintain safe and consistent racing surfaces. They consult with Dr. Mick Peterson from the University of Maine and Dr. Susan Stover from the Veterinary Orthopedics Research Laboratory at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.
- All horse entered to race undergo a pre-race examination the day of the race by the track (association) and/or CHRB official veterinarians. From the time the horses arrive at the receiving barn, through the saddling paddock, post-parade, starting gate, running of the race, and until they leave the track, the horses are under the observation of either the association or official veterinarian.
- All tracks have emergency procedures in place under the supervision of the association veterinarian, who is situated near the horses on the track. If necessary, or out of a preponderance of caution, horses can be transported back to their barns in specially designed equine ambulances.
- The CHRB, in collaboration with The Jockey Club and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, has initiated a microchip pilot project to verify procedures for micro-chipping all race horses in California. The microchip system will greatly enhance disease control management, allow location tracking, and provide a central database for all records associated with each individual horse.