

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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**Postmortem Examination Review Summary #2025H05**

Horse Information: Three-year-old Thoroughbred.

Incident Summary: The horse had recently undergone surgery when he became febrile and developed colitis. The horse was shipped to the hospital but unfortunately succumbed to the illness shortly after admittance.

Necropsy Summary: A necropsy examination revealed *Clostridium difficile* typhlitis with secondary peritonitis and septicemia. *Clostridium difficile* toxins were positively detected in both the small intestine and the colon. Both front feet showed signs of laminitis.

Racing/Training History: The horse had 10 lifetime starts.

Veterinary History Summary: The horse had fetlock surgery in March of 2025 and was placed on antibiotics post-surgery.

Pre-race Examinations: Pre-race examinations had noted joint capsule hypertrophy and a decreased range of motion in both front fetlock joints. Both front fetlocks were also noted to have bilateral suspensory ligament thickening.

Conclusion: The horse fell ill with colitis soon after fetlock surgery. Unfortunately, the illness was extremely destructive and fast moving, and the horse expired despite aggressive supportive therapy while hospitalized.