

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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**Postmortem Examination Review Summary #2024A09**

Horse Information: 2-year-old Thoroughbred.

Incident Summary: This horse was injured during a race. Surgery (arthrodesis of the left front fetlock joint for biaxial sesamoid bone fractures) was performed, and the horse was referred to a local equine hospital a few days later for further care. Two days later the horse was euthanized due to thrombosis of the palmar digital vessels leading to avascular necrosis (circulatory complications) of the left front hoof.

Necropsy Summary: A necropsy examination revealed proximal sesamoid bone fractures (basilar in the medial and apical in the lateral) in the left front limb. Focal red discoloration of subchondral bone was noted in both proximal sesamoid bones. In the left front the laminae of the hoof wall were red (suspected laminitis). Mild dorsal metacarpal disease was noted in the cannon bones of both forelimbs.

Racing/Training History: This horse raced. The horse was injured in the barn stall and was scratched from a planned race. The trainer described the horse as a little “hot” and nervous.

Veterinary History Summary: On one occasion the horse displayed mild myositis and stiffness to the lumbar gluteal muscles and was treated with dexamethasone. Methocarbamol was dispensed. A scrape to the left front leg, sustained during an injury in the barn stall, was treated with a 3-day course of tetracycline. The injury caused the horse to be scratched from a race so the horse was placed on the CHRB Veterinarian’s List and removed after being examined by a regulatory veterinarian. Acepromazine was dispensed. Two days prior to racing, the horse was treated with phenylbutazone, Adequan, EqStim, Estrone, and calcium.

Pre-race Examinations: Exams noted joint capsule hypertrophy and a decreased range of motion in both front fetlock joints.

Conclusion: This horse sustained biaxial sesamoid bone fractures during a race. Fetlock arthrodesis surgery was performed, however, the horse developed circulatory complications in the injured limb and was euthanized.