

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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**Postmortem Examination Review Summary #2024B03**

Horse Information: 3-year-old Thoroughbred.

Incident Summary: This horse was galloping during morning training when injured.

Necropsy Summary: A necropsy examination revealed an oblique (spiral) fracture of the left humerus. Chronic changes included periosteal woven bone at the caudoproximal aspect of the neck of both humeri and palmar osteochondral disease in the distal third metacarpal bones.

Racing/Training History: This horse ran over 5 lifetime races then had a layoff. The horse was placed on the CA Starter List for being fractious in the gate. At the end of the layoff the cold Spa, aqua-treadmill, and vibration plate were utilized, and the horse began tack walking and light jogging. The horse arrived at the track and tack walked 18 days, jogged a week, galloped a day then resumed jogging for 15 days. Galloping resumed and the incident occurred after 11 days of galloping. The horse stood on the vibration plate every other day at the track after layoff. The horse received oral acepromazine the morning of the incident.

Veterinary History Summary: The horse received Adequan the day prior to the incident. Prior to the layoff, the horse was flagged on the track for a right forelimb lameness. Heat was appreciated in the right front medial sesamoid bone, and effusion was noted in the middle carpal joint. Radiographs revealed a chronic avulsion in the right front medial sesamoid bone. A PET scan revealed mild palmar osteochondral disease at the bottom of the cannon bone, and mild uptake in both forelimb medial sesamoid bones.

Pre-race Examinations: Pre-race examinations had noted joint capsule hypertrophy and a decreased range of motion in both front fetlock joints, and the right front medial sesamoid was enlarged.

Conclusion: This horse sustained a humeral fracture while galloping after returning from a layoff for a mild fetlock issue. Chronic remodeling was detected in both humeri on the postmortem exam. The use of nuclear scintigraphy in horses showing subtle signs after return from layoff, such as a single day of soreness, exercise during layoff, avoiding modalities that make a horse appear to be fit without strengthening the skeleton, and jogging horses in a circle during examination were discussed during the trainer meeting.