

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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The following are programs and procedures the CHRB and has in place to protect horses and other racing participants:

- 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.
- 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. The Maddy Lab annually conducts such tests on more than 40,000 samples from racehorses in California. 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 includes 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. A pending rule will give trainers and jockeys the same option.

- 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.
- 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 drugs as part of the National Uniform Medication Program, including 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. New amendments restricting corticosteroids and other intra-articular medications, medical record transfer for claimed horses, and expanded out-of-competition testing currently are going through the regulatory process.
- 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. The CHRB has expanded this program to include voluntary reviews of postmortem results with the trainers of the horses and is in the process of making those reviews mandatory. UC Davis added a post-doctoral fellow specifically to work in the Necropsy Program.
- 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 Kentucky 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 during races. 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 adopted a rule requiring the micro-chipping of 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.

### OTHER SAFEGUARDS

The California Horse Racing Board also works with racetrack managements on track-specific safeguards. Following the 2016 Del Mar summer season, the 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 were implemented for the 2017 race meet at Del Mar:

1. The CHRB had four Official (State) Veterinarians as well as track vets on site at Del Mar. Horses on the grounds at Del were 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 were tracked. Immediately following the taking of entries, a report was automatically generated listing horses that:
  - Were 4 year olds that have never started;
  - Had ever been placed on the Veterinarian's List for injury or lameness;
  - Had ever been placed on the Stewards' List for poor performance.
  - Had not started in 120 days or more.

The identified horses were subject to multiple examinations and some were subjected to diagnostic imaging when necessary to determine their fitness; and the Official Veterinarian placed unfit horses on the Veterinarian's List or otherwise recommended 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 were assigned to monitor training during dark days as feasible.
3. In order to reduce congestion during training, Del Mar management:
  - Reduced stall allocations from 2,050 to 1850.

- Implemented periods during training during which only horses performing timed workouts were permitted on the racetrack.
4. Finally, Del Mar hired a new track superintendent, Dennis Moore. Under his direction, banking into and out of the turns was completely rebuilt at a cost of nearly \$1 million. Track maintenance practices and schedules were 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 was extended.

Because of the dramatic success of these measures in helping to reduce equine fatalities during the 2017 summer meet at Del Mar, the same measures were in place for the 2018 meet, and due to their effectiveness, CHRB began applying the additional safety measures at other tracks.

The California Horse Racing Board and/or The Stronach Group (TSG), the Legislature, and Governor Gavin Newsom took additional steps in the winter and spring of 2019 to safeguard horses:

- TSG instituted a mandatory 14-day stand down for intra-articular treatments at Santa Anita Park and Golden Gate Fields, and later other tracks implemented the same restriction as a condition of their races. Horses receiving intra-articular treatments within 14 days of the race became ineligible to race. The CHRB rule imposes a mandatory five-day stand down for intra-articular treatments. The CHRB also has a mandatory requirement for trainers to maintain those records, which are to be made available to examining veterinarians.
- As a condition of races at Santa Anita and Golden Gate, TSG essentially cut in half the amount of Lasix that can be administered to horses on race day – reducing the maximum dosage to 250 mg, rather than the previous 500 mg maximum dose.
- The CHRB suspended authorized thresholds for 11 anti-inflammatory medications at all racetracks in California. This had the effect of pushing back any administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to outside of 48 hours and for as long as 168 hours, depending on the NSAID. For previously authorized corticosteroids, the suspension pushed back administration time to 96 hours or longer, depending on the corticosteroid.
- The CHRB increased official veterinarian, safety steward, and investigator staffing at Santa Anita.
- TSG required a 48-hour stand down for NSAID for horses during workouts while training at Santa Anita.
- Santa Anita provided additional track veterinarians to monitor training hours.

- A new rule expands out-of-competition testing and provides the means for prosecution of offenders. The rule also requires older horses (4 years old and up) that never have raced as well as horses that have not started for one year to go through an approval process.
- TSG brought in experts to inspect and work on the main track to ensure it is racing safe following a series of storms. They re-hired former track superintendent Dennis Moore, who made significant changes to surface management.
- The CHRB's Medication Committee will be considering measures to ensure safe racing and training surfaces during all weather conditions.
- TSG has had PET-scan equipment installed at Santa Anita and that is aiding in the detection of microscopic problems in bones that can contribute to more serious injuries. MRI equipment is scheduled to be installed by the end of February.
- On June 12 Governor Newsom directed the CHRB to create a panel of independent veterinarians and stewards to review the medical, training and racing histories of each horse entered in a race, empowered to scratch (reject) horses deemed unfit to run.
- On June 29, Governor Newsom signed legislation (SB 469) to allow the CHRB to take immediate action on race meet licenses if horse or rider safety is determined to be at risk.

On December 4 at the request of Governor Newsom, the CHRB submitted the following list of recommendations to further protect horses:

#### Potential Statutory Changes

1. **Modification of confidentiality requirements.** The statute currently requires that "all test results remain confidential unless and until a complaint is filed." The Board recommends a modification to the statute to make public any positive test within 24 hours of receipt of confirmation of the presence of the prohibited substance from the independent laboratory.
2. **CHRB license fees and penalty revenue earmarked for specific safety measures.** Use of these funds would be strictly limited to contracting additional state veterinarians, safety stewards and infrastructure support clearly related to the safety and welfare of horses and riders.
3. **Veterinary Medical Record Exemptions.** Permit access to horse medical records to owners, CHRB veterinarians, track veterinarians, trainers and jockeys.

#### Potential Policy Changes

4. **Placement of high priority watch list horses on the Vet's List.** Mandate that any horse placed on the "high priority" watch list by the review panel be placed on the Vet's List and prohibited from racing and training until removal from the list by the Official (CHRB) Veterinarian.
5. **Vet's List enhancement.** Add stricter protocols for removal from Vet's List (e.g., MRI, PET scan).
6. **Fatality information.** Fatality details, including trainer identity, will be posted weekly on the CHRB website beginning January 1, 2020.
7. **Provisions for Whistleblowers.** Require tracks to provide mechanism and protections for whistleblowers to report suspicious activity.
8. **Sealed tracks.** Prohibit training or racing on racetracks that have been modified to handle rainy weather.
9. **Corticosteroids.** Gradually prohibit the use of corticosteroid medications.
10. **Synthetic Surfaces.** Continue to research the feasibility and desirability of synthetic surfaces.
11. **Shockwave therapy.** Prohibit extracorporeal shock wave therapy.
12. **Medical Reports.** Require submission of 30-day medical report at time of entry.
13. **Veterinary Standards.** Strengthen current regulatory language, with increased penalty guidelines, requiring veterinarians to perform examination, diagnosis and treatment protocols and strict compliance by trainers.
14. **Out of competition testing.** Increase the utilization of out of competition testing.
15. **Training for trainers and vets.** Provide ongoing training to trainers and veterinarians on risks of corticosteroids and other permitted medications.
16. **Review Penalty guidelines.** Review and strengthen medication penalty guidelines, as needed, to further deter violations.

Active Regulatory Changes (moved for public comment)

1. Requires trainers to maintain complete records of all veterinary treatments and make them available upon demand of the examining veterinarian.\*
2. Requires veterinarians to electronically submit the mandated 24-hour treatment reports.
3. Prohibits the use of bisphosphonates in racehorses.\*
4. Establishes strict threshold limits for permitted medications during workouts.\*
5. Allows jockeys to use the riding crop for safety purposes only, i.e., prohibit use of the crop for encouragement.\*\*
6. Eliminates the use of Lasix for all two-year-old horses beginning in 2020 and all subsequent years, ultimately resulting in the elimination of the drug in racing.\*
7. Requires that medical records for the previous 14 days accompany any horse shipping-in to race in CA from another jurisdiction.\*
8. Causes any horse receiving extracorporeal shock wave therapy to be placed on the Veterinarian's List for 30 days.
9. Denies eligibility to any horse that has not been in the care of a CHRB licensed trainer for at least seven consecutive days.\*
10. Requires that an applicant for trainer's license must serve a successful one-year apprenticeship under a CHRB licensed trainer before being licensed as a trainer.\*

11. Requires trainers to complete 12 hours of continuing education classes over three years in order to be relicensed.

\* If adopted will be the most stringent rule of any racing jurisdiction in the country.

\*\* An alternate version, permitting tapping on the shoulder, is under consideration by the Board. Either, if adopted will be the most stringent rule in North America and Europe.

### Regulatory Changes Effective 2019

12. Suspended authorized thresholds for all anti-inflammatory medications at all racetracks in California, resulting in zero tolerance for those substances in post-race laboratory tests.\*\*\*
13. Greatly expanded out-of-competition testing and provided the means for prosecution of offenders.
14. Expanded statutorily mandated necropsies for any horse that dies within a CHRB enclosure to full investigations conducted by CHRB investigations and Official Veterinarians, utilizing the Board's subpoena power as necessary.\*\*\*
15. Denied eligibility to any horse that is four years old or older that a) has never raced or b) has not raced in 120 days or longer, until such has horse has performed satisfactorily in a timed workout before the CHRB Official Veterinarian.\*\*\*
16. Required the transfer of all medical records for any horse that is claimed (purchased out of a race) to the new attending veterinarian.\*\*\*
17. Required that all horses within CHRB enclosures be microchipped in order to start in a race.\*\*\*