

## Kentucky looks into changing test laboratories

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission will consider changing test laboratories for its equine drug testing.

Currently, the state sends its tests to Iowa State University and is renewing that agreement from month to month. At its regular meeting on October 27, the racing commission voted to accept requests for proposals to contract its equine drug testing.

The vote comes just weeks after a Kentucky hearing officer recommended the commission overturn a clenbuterol positive against trainer Richard

Dutrow Jr. and the 15-day suspension that infraction carries. The hearing officer noted that the laboratory conducted its tests on plasma instead of serum, as required in Kentucky.

Kentucky officials said the tests were conducted in serum but just mislabeled. They have requested the hearing officer review his decision.

Racing commission Executive Director Lisa Underwood said Kentucky does not have a specific problem with Iowa State—she expects the laboratory will submit a proposal—but wants to

evaluate its options. Underwood said any laboratory would have to be able to handle all of Kentucky's required tests.

Meanwhile, the Governor's Task Force on the Future of Horse Racing is expected to recommend developing a plan for a state-of-the-art equine drug testing laboratory in Kentucky when it meets for the final time on November 25. Those recommendations will be made to Governor Steve Beshear.

Kentucky Horse Racing Commission Chairman Robert Beck Jr. said even if Kentucky moves forward on its own laboratory, it would need to reach an agreement with another state while the laboratory is being constructed.

In other commission news:

• Equine Medical Director Mary Scollay said Kentucky began testing for anabolic steroids on October 4. On the first day of testing, one Thoroughbred tested positive for stanozolol. The commission has received 30 test results with one positive. Currently in a 90-day grace period for the new rule, Kentucky is not punishing trainers for positive tests; and

• In an effort to improve integrity in the pari-mutuel pools, the commission plans to require racetracks to provide the regulator with information on investigations. While a proposed rule was tabled at the October meeting, commission members made it clear they plan to take action in November.

—Frank Angst



Bill Denver/EquiPhoto

**RICHARD DUTROW JR.**

### REGIONAL DIGEST

#### Ellis could go to four-day weeks in 2009

The racing schedule for Kentucky's Thoroughbred racetracks will look familiar in 2009 with the possible exception of Ellis Park.

While Ellis requested and was approved for 48 racing days from July 4 through September 7, the Henderson, Kentucky, track noted that it may have to race just four days a week during the meet.