



Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit

Sponsored by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation

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Horsemen's Update

2008 Year in Review

Just as 2008 was a year of change in the political sphere, so too was change a dominant theme in the racing industry, which took monumental steps last year to improve welfare, safety and integrity and also increase consumer confidence in the sport. In order to effect meaningful change, all parties — horsemen and industry personnel — must be involved and work together for the betterment of racing.

The Jockey Health Information System, which has 12 tracks and more than 100 jockeys signed up since its launch in October, and current research into racing surfaces, injury prevention and medication protocols are examples of the industry pulling together for the benefit of the sport.

The Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit is an example of a spirit of cooperation. When the summit reconvened in March, it ushered in new safety initiatives and revisited some of the original recommendations from the initial summit in 2006. The summits, in many respects, provided a much-needed blueprint for change that would come into sharper focus following the tragic breakdown of Eight Belles in the Kentucky Derby. All of the research and work from the

summits assisted The Jockey Club's nascent Thoroughbred Safety Committee as it hit the ground running in the weeks following the Derby. The committee issued seven recommendations during the summer aimed at improving the health and safety of Thoroughbreds, and additional recommendations are expected in 2009.



Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit, March 2008

In line with the Thoroughbred Safety Committee's recommendations, both the Breeders' Cup and Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's (TOBA) Graded Stakes Committee implemented eligibility rules related to medication, horse shoes and drug testing, while the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) established an alliance to facilitate adoption of ongoing industry reforms in racing's various jurisdictions.

These are just a few of the changes to date. More are on the horizon, and it is important for all parties to feel involved. Meet with legislators and commissioners. Voice your opinion because the industry is listening. This newsletter provides an overview of the year's accomplishments in the areas of Thoroughbred safety and reform.

Thoroughbred Safety Committee

On May 8, 2008, The Jockey Club announced the formation of the Thoroughbred Safety Committee to review every facet of equine health, including breeding practices, medication, the rules of racing and track surfaces, and to recommend actions to be taken by the industry to improve the health and safety of Thoroughbreds. A standing committee of The



Clockwise from back: Dr. Hiram C. Polk Jr., Dr. Larry Bramlage, John Barr, James G. (Jimmy) Bell, Donald R. Dizney, Dell Hancock, and Stuart S. Janney III

Jockey Club, the Thoroughbred Safety Committee is composed of seven members of The Jockey Club: Stuart S. Janney III (committee chairman), John Barr, James G. (Jimmy) Bell, Dr. Larry Bramlage, Donald R. Dizney, Dell Hancock and Dr. Hiram C. Polk Jr.

The recommendations emanating from the two Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summits served as starting points for the committee. Three of the seven members of the committee participated in both summits.

To date, the committee has made seven recommendations to the industry. A ban on anabolic steroids, a ban on toe grabs and traction devices on front shoes, and riding crop regulations were recommended on June 17, 2008. Creation of a task force to review drug testing and laboratory standards, implementation of uniform penalties, support of the Equine Injury Database, and adoption of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) recommendations for TCO₂ testing were announced at The Jockey Club Round Table Conference on August 17, 2008. Additional information about the committee and its recommendations can be found at <http://www.jockeyclub.com/tsc.asp>.

Equine Injury Database

The Jockey Club announced the launch of the Equine Injury Database on July 22, 2008, to provide the racing industry with its first national database of racing injuries. The Equine Injury Database grew out of a proposal from the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit in October 2006.

The primary objectives of the Equine Injury Database are to

- identify the frequency, types and outcome of racing injuries using a standardized format that will generate valid statistics
- identify markers for horses at increased risk of injury
- serve as a data source for research directed at improving safety and preventing injuries

The official launch of the Equine Injury Database followed a pilot program from June 1, 2007, to July 12, 2008, whereby more than 3,000 injury reports were received and recorded. Since the launch, participation has grown to 75 racetracks that represent approximately 81% of the Thoroughbred racing days in North America. In addition, the American Quarter Horse Association's Executive Committee recently expressed its support of the initiative and intention to participate.

The database, which is funded entirely by The Jockey Club as a service to the industry, has amassed more than 6,000 injury reports and promises to be a valuable resource for evaluating equine health and welfare matters going forward.



WSS Committees with Major Accomplishments in 2008

Education & Licensing

Primary Objective:

Institute education and exam requirements for licensees in order to improve horse handling and increase horsemanship knowledge and skills

Action Items:

- National trainer exam
- Require annual mandatory continuing education components for all professional licensing and re-licensing;
 - Professional licenses include trainers and assistant trainers, jockeys and exercise riders, racetrack veterinary practitioners, racing officials, grooms, and farriers
- Recommended curriculum for mandatory continuing education for licensees
- Work with the RCI continuing education committee to get list of approved CE courses
- Directory of research studies and related educational materials to increase industry awareness of equine scientific studies on horse racing
- Monthly information and education bulletin distributed by e-mail to regulators, track management, horse owners, trainers, racing officials and others involved in horse racing
- Update WSS website in all aspects
- Compile a list of e-mail addresses for all professional licensees
- A database of continuing education components available online for certification purpose
- Increase horsemanship competency opportunities for grooms through horsemen's groups patterned after the Groom Elite Program and make certification mandatory for licensing
- Develop trainer's test study guide
- Expand the H-3 visa program participation

Accomplishments to Date:

- National model trainer exam, including instructions and barn test, completed and sent to state racing commissions for use in their jurisdiction
- Model rule on trainer's test, licensing of trainers and four hours of annual continuing education requirements
- Horsemen's Update newsletter published quarterly
- Continual updating of the WSS website with educational information, pertinent articles, research abstracts and new information in committee sections

On-Track Injury Reporting

Primary Objective:

Development of a national injury reporting and surveillance system

Action Items:

- Establish national injury reporting & surveillance system that provides useful information
- Microchipping program
- Continue work and research on therapeutic medications
- Encourage necropsy programs
- Creation of healthier day-to-day environment for horses
- Economic data modeling of different aspects of the industry

Accomplishments to Date:

- 75 racetracks have signed contracts to report, representing 81% of flat live race starts in North America
- Over 6,000 reports received to date
- Online reporting program for race related injuries in use
- Online reporting for training injuries or non-race related injuries in use
- Quality control and reports system in place for all data

Racing Surfaces

Primary Objective:

To promote consistent and safe track surfaces throughout the country

Action Items:

- A standard and accepted reporting method for testing surfaces at all tracks
- Uniform daily track maintenance report
- Research proposal and subsequent funding for track surface research on dirt and synthetic surfaces
- Research potential causes of catastrophic injury
- Form subcommittees for all surface types
- Develop a research and development model for synthetic, dirt, and turf racing surfaces
- Identify laboratories where material can be sent for analysis
- Work in conjunction with the On-Track Injury Reporting system committee to incorporate maintenance report system

Accomplishments to Date:

- Dr. Mick Peterson and Dr. Wayne McIlwraith have developed a research proposal currently conducting tests on dirt and synthetic surfaces
- Uniform track maintenance report in development
- Sponsor of Track Superintendent Field Day at Lone Star Park in June 2007, Keeneland in June 2008, and Prairie Meadows in 2009
- Turf subcommittee formed and currently researching equipment to determine accuracy and dependability for testing turf racing surfaces.
- Completed turf track survey for composition, distance, width, bank, testing and more

Shoeing & Hoof Care

Primary Objective:

Attend to the health and welfare issues surrounding hoof care

Action Items:

- Eliminate the use of all toe grabs larger than 2 mm, turn downs, jar calks and stickers on front shoes
- Research the use of hind shoes with toe grabs and other traction devices
- Require trainers to take an educational course on hoof care
- Distribution of educational material to owners and trainers
- Create educational hoof care and safety DVD
- Gain information on current farrier licensing practices and work toward standardizing
- List of approved shoes for racing jurisdictions

Accomplishments to date:

- Model rule banning toe grabs greater than 4 mm developed and passed at RCI Convention in April 2007
- Model Rule banning toe grabs greater than 2mm and elimination of all traction devices on front shoes developed and passed in August 2008
- Information on detrimental effects of toe grabs distributed to racing commissions and made available to public on Welfare and Safety Summit website
- Grayson-Jockey Club "Research Today" (distributed in The Blood-Horse magazine) for Summer 2007 and "Horsemen's Update" for September 2007 focused on toe grabs
- Research using video from high-speed cameras of horses breezing on dirt, turf and synthetic surfaces wearing different types of shoes, including shoes with toe grabs of varying heights.
- Shoeing DVD trailer complete and presented at the AAEP Convention and Racing Symposium. Full length DVD coming in early 2009.
- Presentations made at workshops and industry events on shoeing and hoof care by committee members.

American Graded Stakes Committee






On August 6, 2008, the TOBA's American Graded Stakes Committee passed new requirements for races to be eligible for graded status. Beginning January 1, 2009, or by the date of the first scheduled graded stakes race at a particular track, any jurisdiction that has not passed the following rules either at the state level or as a house rule will lose graded stakes status:

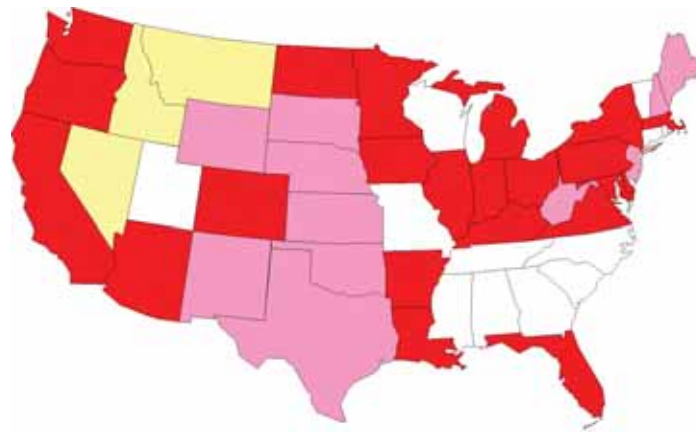


- The ARCI Androgenic Anabolic Steroids Model Rule
- The ARCI Toe Grab Model Rule
- RMTC's recommended best practices for TCO2 testing

The press release can be found on The Jockey Club website, <http://www.jockeyclub.com/tsc.asp?section=4#action08>.

Model Rules: Androgenic Anabolic Steroids

-  Language adopted
-  Language in the process of being adopted
-  Process pending completed administration studies
-  Process has not been started
-  No horse racing or harness racing commission



NTRA Alliance

On October 15, 2008, the NTRA unveiled a new alliance stemming from the efforts of the Welfare and Safety Summit recommendations. The NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance is a standing organization whose purpose is to implement safety and integrity reforms. The alliance also will function as a certification/accreditation body for the purpose of recognizing and incentivizing compliance by all stakeholders. Reforms will be undertaken using a phased approach that begins immediately — in some cases under a “house rules” format — and transitions to a broader strategy that relies on

licensure requirements, continuing education programs and the state regulatory process.

“Fortunately, we have the excellent work of many industry organizations to build on, allowing us to focus on implementation, oversight, measurement and transparency,” said Alex Waldrop, CEO of NTRA.

More information can be found at www.ntra.com under the “Industry” link.

Breeders' Cup

The Breeders' Cup took an important step toward ensuring a level playing field for Breeders' Cup-sanctioned races when it announced on August 1, 2008, the adoption of an official policy restricting the use of anabolic steroids. As part of the policy, agreements will not be established for Breeders' Cup or Challenge Cup races with jurisdictions that have not adopted the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) model rule (or a similar rule) for anabolic steroids.

A first offense of the Breeders' Cup steroid policy will result in disqualification of the horse, forfeiture of the purse and suspension of the trainer and all horses

directly or indirectly in his/her care from the following year's World Championships races.



A second offense will result in suspension of the trainer and all horses directly or indirectly in his/her care from the following two years' World Championships races. A third violation of the steroids policy will result in a lifetime suspension from the World Championships races for the trainer and all horses directly or indirectly in his/her care.

The news release announcing the steroids policy is available at <http://www.breederscup.com/content.aspx?id=34004>.

Looking Ahead to 2009

Just as 2008 brought institutional efforts to effect changes for the welfare and safety of the racehorse, 2009 promises the same dedication and response to the industry's needs. The summit committees have already resumed meeting after the short holiday break to continue their efforts.

- The Shoeing and Hoof Care Committee will be releasing its first full-length educational DVD in cooperation with the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. The DVD, entitled *The Hoof: Inside and Out*, is scheduled to be released in the first quarter of 2009 and will provide owners, trainers, and veterinarians an in-depth look at the importance of the hoof and proper care.

- The Education and Licensing Committee will be working with the ARCI to coordinate a trainer Continuing Education program and to work toward standardizing licensing requirements for all people in contact with the horse.

- The Track Surface Committee will continue to research equipment, both new and old, to determine uniform characteristics in racing surfaces and ways to make them more consistent and safer for horses.

- The Equine Injury Database will continue to seek out non-participating tracks for enrollment and begin assessing quality data for reporting.

We also look forward to collaborating with various industry organizations and the RMTC on the implementation of safety initiatives and reforms. The continued progress of all of these efforts is made possible by the support, interest, and collaboration of many industry stakeholders.

We welcome any suggestions and comments that you may have and encourage you to contact us, your commissioners, track managements, and your legislators. Please continue to visit our website (below) for further updates.

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