



Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit

Sponsored by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation

Issue 8

October 2009

Horsemen's Update

Safety Crop Regulations

The RCI passed a model rule pertaining to riding crops in December 2008. The new rule states that the crop must be a maximum of 8 oz in weight, 30 inches in length, and the shaft must be a minimum of .5 inch in diameter and covered with a soft, shock-absorbing material. These crops sound louder to a bystander but are actually softer to the horse because of the shock absorption.

Many top jockeys have agreed that these crops are good for horse racing.

On *Bloodhorse.com* on August 6, jockey Garrett Gomez stated, "This is a great step for racing; all the jocks discussed it and wanted to make this move. One of our biggest problems was getting enough riding crops for everybody. With Del Mar's help, we were able to get a big enough supply, including for riders who couldn't necessarily afford them. With the new riding crop, horses seem to react to the sound of the popper rather than from a

physical reaction to the whip. It's good for racing and we wanted to be at the forefront." Jockey Mike Smith said, "I'm really happy we have made this change, I've used one for quite a while. They are very equine friendly. With the old crop, if you knew how to use it, it was fine. Sometimes though in the heat of battle you might make a mistake. With these new riding crops, it really eliminates that possibility. They make noise, but they are all cushion and don't cause any harm to the horse."



Many states are adopting the RCI model rule for their racetracks. The following states have fully adopted the model rule for all their jurisdictional racetracks: Indiana, Kentucky, and South Dakota. In addition, these racetracks have passed

house rules to utilize the new crops: NYRA and CDI tracks, Del Mar, Hollywood Park, Delaware Park, Monmouth Park, Philadelphia Park, and Santa Anita.

Free Identification and Tattoo Services Offered

The Jockey Club held its Fifty-Seventh Annual Round Table Conference on Matters Pertaining to Racing on August 23. This year the Conference mainly focused on medication and also gave a brief overview of the new racing surface laboratory, NTRA Safety Alliance update and review of two services offered for retired racehorses.

Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from the original full transcripts, available at <http://www.jockeyclub.com/roundtable.asp>

Matt Iuliano - Vice President, Registration Services, The Jockey Club

...This past April, we added Tattoo Identification Services to our Interactive Registration platform to assist owners of retired racehorses in researching their identity....

Based upon the tattoo number entered by the customer, identification information is displayed, which includes the name, the year of birth, the color and the sex. Customers with more problematic tattoos could complete an online form and receive our assistance in researching the identity of their horse. ...

Tattoos that are clearly legible can be entered under tattoo lookup as before, whereas those tattoos that are more difficult to read or have faded with age can be entered under Tattoo Research. ...

I also want to briefly mention our retirement checkoff program. We announced the checkoff late last year and started it on January 1 of this year.

The program enables owners and breeders to make voluntary payments designated for



Matt Iuliano

Thoroughbred aftercare programs supported by the Thoroughbred Charities of America and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation.

Owners and breeders can participate in the retirement checkoff program and have their payments matched by The Jockey Club by simply completing the attachment at the bottom of the Application for Foal Registration.

Together with Thoroughbred Charities of America and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, we have been promoting the checkoff in a number of ways in the past few months. We hope you will participate and encourage others to do the same.

For more information on Tattoo Identification Services or the retirement checkoff program, please visit us at registry.jockeyclub.com.

Editor's Note: These services are now being offered free to anyone with an Interactive Registration account, which is also free by signing up online at registry.jockeyclub.com.

Uniform National Trainer's Study Guide Now Available

The Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit has published and made available for purchase the *Uniform National Trainer's Test Study Guide*, a comprehensive resource for individuals preparing to take a state-administered trainer's licensing exam.

The 108-page study guide is designed to assist with preparations for both the written and barn test components of the exam. The guide was compiled by Dr. C. Reid McLellan, executive director of the Groom Elite Program, a non-profit horsemen's education service that provides high-quality equine care courses to grooms, owners and trainers.

The study guide covers in detail every topic included in the national trainer's exam that has been provided to state racing commissions by the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit's Education and Licensing Committee. The guide also identifies the practical skills necessary to successfully complete the barn-test portion of the exam.

"The *Uniform National Trainer's Test Study Guide* gives aspiring trainers a leg up when preparing for the trainer's exam," said Remi Bellocq, chief executive officer of the National

Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA). "Our work in helping to establish the Groom Elite Program back in 2001 has helped us provide horsemen with opportunities for professional and personal growth and improved horsemanship. The National HBPA remains committed to

the concept that improved welfare and safety begins with education and tough, but fair, uniform national licensing standards."

An entire chapter of the study guide is devoted to the rules of racing. Dr. McLellan noted, "It is important for users to understand not only the general rules of racing presented in the study guide, but also the rules and regulations specific to their jurisdiction, as these can vary from state to state. Most state racing commissions have posted their rules of racing online and a list of commission websites is included in the appendix as a convenience."



Dr. Reid McLellan

The *Uniform National Trainer's Test Study Guide* is available for \$40.00 by contacting Cathy McNeeley at (859) 224-2728 or cmcneeley@jockeyclub.com.

(VISA, MC, and AMEX accepted; checks should be made payable to Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation.)

Upcoming Events

Groom Elite 101 at Penn National

October 12 - 13

Groom Elite 101 at Calder Racecourse

October 12 - 14

October 19 - 21

Trainer Elite 301 at Fairplex (tentative)

October 31 - November 4

*For all Elite Program information, visit
www.groomelite.com*

Animal Welfare Symposium: “Building Partnerships to Address Animal Welfare”

October 16, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Ohio State University Department of Animal Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine
Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center
Columbus, OH

*[www.vet.ohio-state.edu/
AnimalWelfareSymposium.htm](http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/AnimalWelfareSymposium.htm)*

AAEP 55th Annual Convention

December 5 - 9

Las Vegas, NV

Open to member and non-member veterinarians
and non-veterinarians

www.aaep.org/convention

Officiating Horse Racing Conference

December 7

Westin La Paloma Resort

Tucson, AZ

Open to all racing officials, stewards/judges,
commissioners, horsemen and those interested in
the daily regulation and officiating of horse racing.

*www.horseracingofficials.com
contactus@horseracingofficials.com*

Annual Symposium on Racing and Gaming

December 7 - 10

Westin La Paloma Resort

Tucson, AZ

Presented by The University of Arizona's
Race Track Industry Program

www.ua-rtip.org/symposium/index.html

ROAP Spanish Speaking Accreditation School

March 13 - 20, 2010

Camerero Racetrack

Canovanas, Puerto Rico

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