

Practical Application



Taking lessons from the necropsy floor to the
backside

KHRC Procedures



- 🐾 Identifying at-risk horses
 - 🐾 Review of PPs
 - 🐾 Non-race day examinations
 - 🐾 Race day examinations
 - 🐾 Intelligence gathering
 - 🐾 On-track assessment
 - 🐾 Post-race followup

KHRC Procedures



🌀 Review of PPs

- 🌀 Sharp class drops
- 🌀 Multiple claims in short time span
- 🌀 Long layoffs
- 🌀 Multiple short layoffs
- 🌀 Eased/vanned off in recent history

KHRC Procedures



- 🌀 Non-race day examinations
 - 🌀 Typically horses with very long layoffs
 - 🌀 Horses are examined on the day prior to racing
 - 🌀 Intelligence is gathered from the trainer

KHRC Procedures



- 🌀 More information = we are more comfortable!
- 🌀 Two horses for two different trainers
- 🌀 Both horses had long layoffs
- 🌀 Trainer 1 gave full history
- 🌀 Trainer 2 was evasive

KHRC Procedures



☞ Pre-Race Examinations

- ☞ Horse's identity is confirmed
- ☞ General visual inspection
- ☞ Palpation and flexion of forelimbs
- ☞ Horse jogged in hand
- ☞ Findings noted and recorded in Incompass

KHRC Procedures



🌀 “Watch” horses

- 🌀 Red flags from PPs
- 🌀 Minor gait abnormalities
- 🌀 New changes noted on physical exam
- 🌀 Extra scrutiny during post parade

KHRC Procedures



🌀 Post-Race Follow-Up

- 🌀 If soundness is questionable when returning to unsaddle
- 🌀 Significant pre-race abnormalities but was sound
- 🌀 Give the horse 15-20 minutes to cool out
- 🌀 Observe horse jogging, +/- palpation

KHRC Procedures



- 🌀 Team debrief after racing injury
 - 🌀 Review exam findings, PPs, history
 - 🌀 Notes on how horse warmed up
 - 🌀 Try to identify any missed opportunities for intervention
 - 🌀 Improving our protocols to improve horses' safety

KHRC Procedures



🌀 Limitations

🌀 Time constraints

🌀 Brief exam, not seeing the horse regularly

🌀 No medical records/treatment history

🌀 “Digital” imaging only

🌀 Consistency

Attending Necropsies



- ❧ To improve pre-race examinations
 - ❧ Palpating limbs intact
 - ❧ Examining dissected limbs
 - ❧ Improve interpretation of race-day examination findings
 - ❧ Become more consistent in recording findings

Unexpected Lessons



🌀 Pre-existing pathology

- 🌀 Palmar osteochondral disease
- 🌀 Limitations of radiography
- 🌀 Hearing talks vs. seeing it live
 - 🌀 MR images vs. actual limbs

Unexpected Lessons



- ❧ Bilateral nature of pathology
 - ❧ Don't present as lame
 - ❧ Often bilaterally choppy or stiff
 - ❧ No pathognomonic gait

The Silver Lining



- ☞ Injuries are NOT random events
 - ☞ This is GOOD NEWS
 - ☞ Opportunities for intervention
 - ☞ Need to communicate and cooperate

Spreading The Word



- ❧ Conversations with private practitioners
 - ❧ We all go to the same CE
 - ❧ Putting it in real-life terms

- ❧ Conversations with trainers
 - ❧ How about some just plain “E”

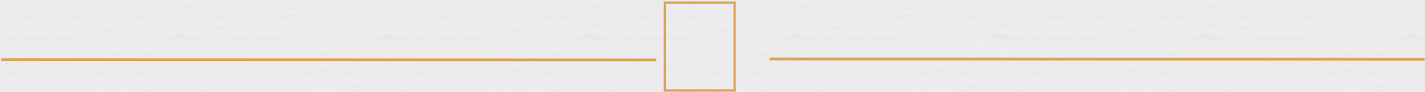
Spreading The Word

☞ Mortality review

☞ Educational opportunity for all involved

☞ Even better if we can educate
BEFORE catastrophic injuries

Next Steps

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- 🌀 How do we identify these horses?
 - 🌀 Completing the picture
 - 🌀 Appropriate course of action?

Next Steps

🌀 I don't know

- 🌀 Collaborative effort
- 🌀 Much work to be done
- 🌀 Moving in the right direction, but we're not there yet



Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit VI

