



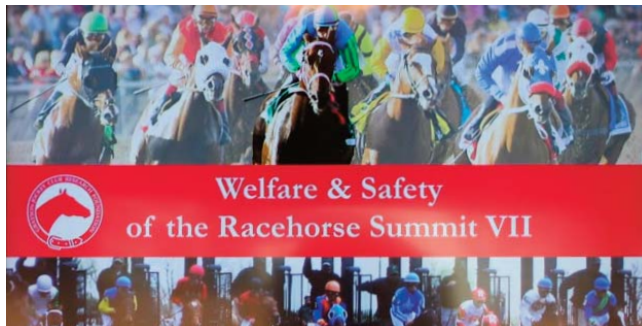
Equine Research News

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WELFARE & SAFETY OF THE RACEHORSE SUMMIT VII: EFFORTS CONTINUE TO BEAR FRUIT

The seventh Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit concluded late Tuesday afternoon, June 28th at the Keeneland Sales Pavilion in Lexington, Ky., following 12 reports on topics ranging from racing surfaces, equine injuries and rider safety to nutrition, biosecurity, and respiratory health for horses.



There were also reports on biomarker research, compounded medications, nutraceuticals, lameness, the importance of the physical inspection, and use of the riding crop.

The summit, which is organized and underwritten by Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and The Jockey Club, drew approximately 200 observers as well as an international audience who watched a live video stream.

A video replay of the summit and several of the presentations is available on the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation ([Click to link](#))

The summit once again was free and open to the public and attracted a cross-section of representatives from the world of Thoroughbred breeding and racing, including owners, breeders, horsemen, regulators, veterinarians, racetrack officials, jockeys and media. The live audience also included students from the Kentucky Equine Management Internship program, the North America Racing Academy, and the University of Queensland (Australia).

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Among the highlights:

Dr. Tim Parkin, an epidemiologist from the University of Glasgow's School of Veterinary Medicine, shared some insights regarding the dramatic drop in fatal injuries in 2015 compared to previous years.

"We now have seven full years of data in the Equine Injury Database [2009 to 2015] and the data is now driving our ability to have an impact on risk factors and fatalities."

Among his findings were that racing horses at a young age reduces the chance of fatal injury.

“ **... the number of starts by 2-year-olds increased as fatality rates dropped.** ”

"The vast majority of studies find that it is good thing and I'm not aware of any studies that say the opposite," Parkin said. "We also noticed that the number of starts by 2-year-olds increased as fatality rates dropped."



Dr. Tim Parkin

In addition, a lower risk of fatal injury was found with horses that stay longer with the same trainer,

have more time off between races, and race farther than 6 furlongs.

"Our collective efforts are beginning to bear fruit," Parkin said. "We have seen significant improvement even with a lot of unknown variables. I would urge tracks to continue to report complete data and for those tracks to study their own data.... There is a greater awareness of importance of Thoroughbred welfare and continuous marginal gains are important."

“ Our goal is to make dirt surfaces consistently safe and reduce the risk to horses and riders. ”

Parkin also encouraged the sharing of vet lists and the harmonization of medication regulations.

"We started from a standstill and the database has grown quickly," he said. "It's very exciting to see the positive impact the EID and subsequent analysis is starting to have."

Bill Casner, a Thoroughbred owner and breeder, covered respiratory and airway health and talked about steps he has taken to improve environmental conditions for his horses.

Dr. Mick Peterson, executive director of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory, discussed track surface design and its relationship to the Equine Injury Database.



Dr. Mick Peterson

"Our goal is to make dirt surfaces consistently safe and reduce the risk to horses and riders," he said. "We now have a Management Quality System that includes track design data, track inspection data, and track maintenance data. And we can make racing safer when we study the Equine Injury Database, the Jockey Injury Database and the Management Quality System together."

Later in the program, Dr. Christopher Kawcak of the Orthopedic Research Center of Colorado State University discussed how biomarkers could be used to prevent catastrophic injuries. He said that biomarker analysis for equine injury risk requires sequential diagnosis over time via various imaging techniques.

Sue Finley, senior vice president and co-publisher of Thoroughbred Daily News, moderated a panel of retired jockeys including Gunnar Lindberg, now a Canadian racing official, and Hall of Famers Chris McCarron and Ramon Dominguez who discussed regulations involving the use of the riding crop.



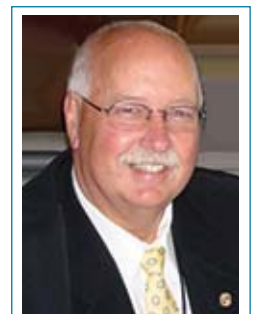
Ramon Dominguez

"In Canada, we've limited the number of strikes and horses aren't running any slower," Lindberg said. "If we want to increase our fan base, we can't be abusing horses with a whip. We fine riders, even riders coming from out of the country. Once our riders become aware of the regulations, they adhere to the rules."

"The whip is important for safety and can help you guide a horse around a turn," said McCarron. "It's a very useful tool and has prevented a lot of accidents and incidents when used properly."

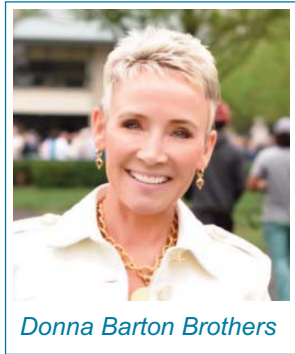
The afternoon session featured presentations on athletic training and rehabilitation, compounded medications, equine veterinary care, and lameness diagnosis.

In the final session, veterinarians Dr. Larry Bramlage, Dr. Kevin Dunlavy, and Dr. Mary Scollay discussed the importance of physical inspection from three different perspectives. Bramlage talked about the use of advanced imaging to find underlying causes for a symptom-free horse's poor performance. Dunlavy talked about assessing a specific issue or problem causing lameness, and Scollay spoke of lameness inspections performed to ensure a horse is sound enough to compete.



Dr. Larry Bramlage

The event was emceed by Donna Barton Brothers, former jockey and current NBC racing analyst who serves on the advisory board for the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.



Donna Barton Brothers

"As with so many past editions, this summit clearly demonstrated the tremendous welfare- and safety-related enhancements that are possible when we have such widespread industry collaboration," said Edward L. Bowen, president of Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. "The increasing use of sophisticated data and new technology are certainly helping us move forward, and we are grateful to all

those who made presentations, attended or watched our summit today."

The first Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit was held in October 2006; subsequent summits were held in March 2008, June 2010, October 2012, July 2014, and July 2015.

Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation is traditionally the nation's leading source of private funding for equine medical research that benefits all breeds of horses. Since 1983, the foundation has provided more than \$23.3 million to fund 335 projects at 42 universities in North America and overseas.

Additional information about the foundation and the summit is available at grayson-jockeyclub.org.

Remembering Mr. Backer



William Backer, the renowned advertising innovator who died on May 13, had been a member of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation board of directors since 1997. His efforts on behalf of equine research reflected a long-held devotion to the horse, as a breeder and owner of Thoroughbreds as well as an avid figure in

the Virginia hunt fields. Mr. Backer owned Smitten Farm in Virginia.

Those interests were highly compatible with Mr. Backer's role as president of the Piedmont Environmental Council, a conservation group, from 2004 until his death at the age of 89. His artistic and entrepreneurial talents created the successful career to enable him to engage in those passions.

"Advertising has long been regarded as one of the most characteristically American of occupations," commented the *Washington Post*, which described the business as "a blend of sentiment and salesmanship, of craft and commerce that can at its best rise to the level of art and become a part of the lives and cultural heritage of millions." The *Post* cited that Mr. Backer was "a principal creator of one of the most indelible of all commercials, the 1971 TV spot in which a vast and fresh-faced youth chorus sings with guileless enthusiasm 'I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke.'"

Mr. Backer was instrumental in other highly successful advertising campaigns, including the amusing commercials in which well-known individuals argued over whether the best point of a certain beer was whether it is "Less Filling" or "Tastes Great."

Mr. Backer bred 20 stakes winners since 1978, most of their blacktype victories coming at Mid-Atlantic tracks. He was a traditional breeder who bred from female families over generations. For example, he bred stakes winner Princess Roberto, which in turn foaled his filly Snit, which won the grade 2 Cotillion and three other stakes. Snit followed suit by foaling stakes winners Blind Date and Sales Tax. Mr. Backer bred stakes winners by Roberto, Fappiano, and Blame, but for the most part forged his success without utilizing top priced stallion seasons.

Amusing touches with the language marked his naming of horses just as it had his advertising career. Some naming sequences featured show business. For Example, Her Smile was out of Hepburn, which was by Capote--- Applause. Her Smile had won stakes for her breeder and added the grade 2 Prioress Stakes after being sold privately to Bobby Flay. Hepburn was also the dam of the stakes winner Moon River.



Mr. Backer's most recent stakes winner as breeder is the 2016 Pennsylvania Oaks winner Sweet Victory.

TAMPA BAY DOWNS AND GULFSTREAM PARK LATEST TO JOIN THE OCALA INITIATIVE

Two of Florida's premier Thoroughbred racing tracks, Tampa Bay Downs and Gulfstream Park, have each donated \$10,000 in support of the Ocala Initiative - a project designed by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation to advance equine medical research in Florida. They join Double Diamond Farm, Florida Thoroughbred Owners' and Breeders' Association, Glen Hill Farm, Ocala Breeders' Sales (OBS), Ocala Stud, and Payton Training Center as partners in the initiative.

"Tampa Bay Downs and Gulfstream are two of the bedrock Thoroughbred racetracks not just of Florida but throughout the U.S., so their commitment to research is really setting an example for stewardship of equine health and welfare," said Garrett Gleeson, director of development and major gifts for Grayson. "We're really excited to have both tracks on board, supporting work that's so crucial to the health of all breeds of horses as well as the horse racing business."

The Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation is working with organizations in the equine community throughout Florida to raise \$100,000 and will then solicit matching funds from individuals.

"The initiative is designed to give those in the equine business the opportunity to give back to the horses that give so much," Gleeson said.

"Gulfstream and our partner tracks have long been committed to equine research, and we were thrilled to be a part of the Ocala Initiative," said P.J. Campo, vice president of racing at Gulfstream Park Racing & Casino. "We see this opportunity as a way to improve the health of the



Gulfstream Park

horse and set an example to owners and trainers that we can and should work to advance research for equine welfare."

"At Tampa Bay Downs we believe the future is bright for our sport and our track," said Margo Flynn, vice president of marketing and publicity at Tampa Bay Downs, "and we believe that further investment in equine research will serve to further engage interest in the sport and advance the well-being of our Thoroughbred athletes."



Tampa Bay Downs

For more information about how you can support the Ocala Initiative or please contact Garrett Gleeson at ggleeson@jockeyclub.com or 212.521.5310.

The Friend You Can't Do Without

"When I think about all that horses have done for me, it seems natural to help give back to them through my support of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. This organization has great past performances in identifying and funding research projects designed by experts to help keep horses sound and healthy and to treat them when they do have problems.

I encourage anyone who cares about horses to contribute to Grayson. It's the friend we can't do without."

---Mike Smith,
Hall of Fame Jockey



Anne M. Eberhardt photo