

# 2010 Equine Health and Safety Report

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# Equine Health and Safety

## WAC 260-70-510 Equine Health & Safety

- Annual public meeting to review veterinary practices, equine health & medication;
- Presentation of data regarding equine medication & treatment; and recommendations; and
- Opportunity to take public comment regarding equine health & safety, medication, and veterinary practices.

# 2010 Equine Testing Program

In 2010 the WHRC decided to change its equine testing.

- The change involved testing samples from
  - Half of all winners;
  - Others whose actions or performance raised questions; plus
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> finishers in stakes races.
- This change resulted in
  - 578 fewer samples tested (46% less); and
  - Over \$50,000 saved in equine testing.

# Stewards' Rulings

## Medication Violations at Emerald Downs

Violation	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Overages on permitted medications	22	15	12	11	10	3
Presence of prohibited substances	4	3	3	5	3	0
Improper medication administration	2	4	3	2	2	0
Failure to deliver forms on time	1	1	2	0	0	0
Presence of contraband items	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	29	24	20	18	15	3

# Stewards' Rulings

## Medication Violations at the Nonprofit Racetracks

Violation	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Overages on permitted medications	2	3	0	3	2	0
Presence of prohibited substances	0	0	1	1	0	0
Improper medication administration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failure to deliver forms on time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Presence of contraband items	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	3	1	4	2	0

# Status at Time of Fatality

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Racing	13	10	8	18	10	14	11	16	9
Starting Gate	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Training	6	8	3	8	8	11	11	8	12
Paddock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Barn	8	13	8	7	9	9	14	10	10
Total	27	31	20	33	28	35	36	35	21

# Racing Days, Training Days, Races & Starters 2002 - 2010

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Racing Days	91	91	90	101	90	91	91	91	90
Training Days	224	231	231	258	238	241	240	238	221
Races	829	830	813	925	822	824	827	815	772
Starters	6,457	6,069	5,894	7,237	6,456	6,252	6,362	6,058	5,429
Racing Fatalities	13	10	9	18	11	15	11	16	9
Fatalities/1,000 Starts	2.01	1.65	1.53	2.49	1.70	2.40	1.73	2.64	1.65

# Status on 2009 Staff Recommendations

- Adoption of riding crop rule – Completed;
- Adoption of model medication & penalty rules – (*No Action*);
- Explore rulemaking for out-of-competition testing (*No Legislative Authority*);
- Participation in freezing test samples – Completed;
- Require continuing education & testing of owners, trainers, & grooms – (*No Action*);
- Rulemaking regarding claimed horses breaking down during racing & impact to the original owner (*No Action*);
- Where possible, support industry efforts by comply with the NTRA Safety Alliance (*Efforts Continue*).

# 2010 Staff Recommendations

- Participate in industry task force to explore causes & methods to prevent catastrophic breakdowns of racehorses;
- Remind trainers about the need to keep a good history on horses' winter activities (or non-activity), especially three year olds – to help prevent humerus fractures; and
- Adopt Model Rules for Equine Medications.