

2016 Equine Health and Safety Report

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Equine Health and Safety Report

- To review Steward Ruling on Medication Violations
- To review status at the time of fatalities
- Comparing racing and training statistics 2008 – 2016
- Commission Veterinarian Recommendations 2008 – 2016
- Commission Veterinarian 2016

Stewards' Rulings

Medication Violations - Emerald Downs

Violation	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Overages on permitted medications	4	5	8	1	3	6
Presence of prohibited substances	1	0	0	0	1	0
Improper medication administration	0	0	0	0	0	2
Failure to deliver forms on time	0	0	0	0	0	2
Presence of contraband items	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	5	5	8	1	5	10

Stewards' Rulings

Medication Violations - Nonprofit Racetracks

Violation	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Overages on permitted medications	0	2	0	2	0	1
Presence of prohibited substances	0	0	0	0	0	2
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	0	2	0	2	0	3

Status at Time of Fatality

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Racing	11	16	9	10	8	8	5	11	8
Starting Gate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training	11	8	12	5	4	4	8	4	4
Paddock	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Barn	14	10	10	9	8	4	4	5	3
Total	36	35	31	35	20	16	17	20	15

Racing Fatalities

On the track and euthanized by WHRC veterinarian – 6

Off the track and euthanized by WHRC veterinarian – 1

Practicing veterinarian within 24 hours of race – 1

Causes

Sesamoid Fracture – 5

Cannon Bone Fracture – 1

Skull Fracture – 1

Fetlock Luxation - 1

Training Fatalities

Scapula Fracture - 1

Humeral Fracture - 1

Carpal Bone Fracture - 1

Third Metacarpal - 1

Barn Fatalities

Neurologic - 1

Gastro-intestinal - 1

Septic Joint - 1

Racing Days, Training Days, Races & Starters 2008 - 2016

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Racing Days	91	91	90	82	81	75	73	70	70
Training Days	240	238	221	208	187	218	215	215	202
Races	827	815	772	778	690	665	641	647	599
Starters	6,362	6,058	5,429	4,898	4,390	4,427	4,022	4,438	4,450
Racing Fatalities	11	16	9	10	8	8	5	11	8
Fatalities/1,000 Starts	1.73	2.64	1.65	2.04	1.80	1.81	1.24	2.47	1.57

Outstanding 2011 thru 2015

Commission Veterinarians Recommendations

- Adoption of ARCI Model Rules for Equine Medications – (WHRC needs to continue to work toward **not away** from national standards);
- Require continuing education & testing of trainers & grooms – (*No Formal Action, HBPA offering voluntary CE*);
- Rulemaking regarding claimed horses breaking down during racing & the impact to the original owner (*No Action*);
- 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 humeral fractures;
- All split sample - labs should be double accredited (ISO and RMTC) to ensure testing standards comparable to WHRC primary lab.

Commission Veterinary Concerns 2016

- **Methylprednisolone (Depo-medrol) – WHRC 13x the ARCI model rules**
 - Joint Injections – masks signs of break down injuries
 - Veterinarians in WA are injecting 4 days pre-race, other states 7- 14 days depending on dose
- **Dexamethasone – WHRC 1000pg/ml vs. ARCI 5pg/ml.....200 X**
 - Very significant – anti-inflammatory given 24 hours pre-race
- **Phenylbutazone – move from 5 to 2 micrograms/ml**
 - Pre-race inspections – as far as 14 hours before race
- **Masking unsoundness during morning inspections???**
 - 2016 Example

Commission Veterinary Recommendations 2016

- Veterinarian scratches - must be performed by and/or authorized by a regulatory veterinarian before being accepted by the race office?
- Urge the WHRC to work toward ARCI model rules for **phenylbutazone, dexamethasone and methylprednisolone**
- Furosemide (lasix/salix) – 3rd party administration or regulatory oversight
- Requirements for Practicing Veterinarian reports must be **standardized and filed no later than post time?** Better but not consistent.