

# 2013 Equine Health and Safety Report

Dr. Sally Calkins, DVM  
Equine Medical Director  
Washington Horse Racing Commission  
October 11, 2013

# Equine Health and Safety Report

## Purpose:

- To review veterinary practices, equine health & medication;
- To present data regarding equine medication & treatment; and recommendations; and
- To provide our stakeholders an opportunity to comment on equine health & safety, medication, and veterinary practices.

# Stewards' Rulings

## Medication Violations at Emerald Downs

Violation	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Overages on permitted medications	11	10	3	4	5	8
Presence of prohibited substances	5	3	0	1	0	0
Improper medication administration	2	2	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	18	15	3	5	5	8

# Stewards' Rulings

## Medication Violations at the Nonprofit Racetracks

Violation	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Overages on permitted medications	3	2	0	0	2	0
Presence of prohibited substances	1	0	0	0	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	1	2	0	0	2	0

# Status at Time of Fatality

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Racing	18	10	14	11	16	9	10	8	8
Starting Gate	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training	8	8	11	11	8	12	5	4	4
Paddock	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Barn	7	9	9	14	10	10	9	8	4
Total	33	28	35	36	35	31	25	20	16

# Racing Days, Training Days, Races & Starters 2005 - 2013

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Racing Days	101	90	91	91	91	90	82	81	75
Training Days	258	238	241	240	238	221	208	187	218
Races	925	822	824	827	815	772	778	690	665
Starters	7,237	6,456	6,252	6,362	6,058	5,429	4,898	4,390	4,427
Racing Fatalities	18	11	15	11	16	9	10	8	8
Fatalities/1,000 Starts	2.49	1.70	2.40	1.73	2.64	1.65	2.04	1.80	1.81

# Results of Blood Screening in 2013

- Began direct instrumental screening in 2012;
- 2012 was an educational year;
- Established thresholds prior to the 2013 race meet on commonly used therapeutics to avoid positives at a level that would have no effect on the horse at race time

# Outstanding 2009 thru 2012 Staff Recommendations

- Adoption of model medication & penalty rules – (*Research being conducted*);
- Explore rulemaking for out-of-competition testing (*Should the WHRC have authority at off-site facilities*);
- Require continuing education & testing of owners, trainers, & grooms – (*No Formal Action, HBPA offering voluntary CE*);
- Rulemaking regarding claimed horses breaking down during racing & 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 humerus fractures; and ;
- Adopt Model Rules for Equine Medications, including lowering the threshold for phenylbutazone to two (2) micrograms per milliliter. - (*No Action*)



# 2013 Staff Recommendations

- *Continue to move toward ARCI and RMTC model rules regarding therapeutic medications*