

**STRENGTHENING
THE INTEGRITY
OF RACING**



QUARTERLY

Winter 2009

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RMTC Assists ROAP in Their Second Annual Conference on Officiating Horseracing

In early December, RMTC Executive Director Dr. Scot Waterman spoke at the second annual Conference on Officiating Horseracing, sponsored by the Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP) at the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program's Annual Symposium on Racing and Gaming. Hosted by Alan Foreman, CEO of the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Vice Chairman of RMTC, the day-long conference focused on the successful prosecution of drug cases, along with related topics such as chain of custody, penalties, drug classifications, laboratory capabilities and the potential of drugs to affect performance. The material was geared especially toward states' attorneys general and their assistants who are responsible for prosecuting drug cases for commissions, but many other industry stakeholders attended to learn about this important aspect of horse racing. The goal was to give attendees guidelines on how to fairly, effectively and successfully enforce medication regulations in their respective jurisdictions.

The other panelists for the conference were Ira Finkelstein, a partner with Harnik and Finkelstein with over 30 years of experience in equine law matters, particularly cases involving the drugging and abuse of horses; Dr. Scott Stanley, a professor of Equine Analytical Chemistry and director of the Kenneth L. Maddy Laboratory at U.C.-Davis; and Dr. George Maylin, an associate professor of Toxicology and director of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board Equine Drug Testing and Research program at Cornell University. While the concepts discussed were technical in nature, the panelists did a fantastic job of presenting the information in a simple, easy-to-understand way that even the most basic racing fan could follow and, hopefully, find interesting.

One of the key themes that emerged was treating each violation as a unique set of circumstances. Too often it seems as if the penalty given for a drug

violation is based solely on the RCI Class of the drug and the penalty the previous licensee received for that substance. While the RCI's Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances is extremely useful in describing a drug's pharmacology and potential to influence performance, it was never designed to be the sole source of information for determining a penalty. As Alan Foreman pointed out, a Class 2 drug can be used like a Class 4 drug and vice versa. Each violation is an individual case, and examining the circumstances, both aggravating and mitigating, is the key to developing a fair system that can be respected by participants and the wagering public.



A second theme that appeared was the tremendous difficulty of assessing whether a drug at a particular concentration found by the laboratory had any effect on the performance of the horse. Dr. Maylin and Dr. Stanley explained the science well, but this is often a difficult, if not impossible, determination to make. Our research capabilities are not sensitive enough to accurately determine whether a picogram or nanogram of a substance may have affected the performance of a horse by less than 1/5th of a second. After listening to the presentation, it became clear why the rules of the sport steer clear of putting any onus on the prosecution to prove a performance effect when determining a penalty.

Many more topics were discussed at ROAP's conference. To read about those discussions and to learn more about the successful prosecution of a drug case, you can access the conference presentations at the websites of ROAP (horseracingofficials.com) and RMTC (rmtcnet.com). If state travel budgets improve over the coming years, this conference should become a destination event for commission representatives and state attorneys general. These are fundamental concepts in protecting the integrity of the sport, and ROAP, Alan Foreman and all the panelists deserve credit and gratitude for a very successful day.

RMTC Job Posting

The RMTC is seeking candidates for the position of Director of Research and Laboratory Accreditation, based in the RMTC's Lexington, Kentucky office. This employee will provide coordination and related administrative duties for RMTC research projects and will develop and promote policies and procedures for the accreditation of drug testing laboratories involved with horse racing in the United States.

*A complete job description is available at the "Contact Us" page of our website—
www.rmtcnet.com*

Responsibilities will include coordinating the activities and meetings of the RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee, coordinating administration studies designed for the development of uniform threshold levels and withdrawal times for the regulation of therapeutic medications, analyzing data produced from the administration studies and producing final written report for distribution to RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee, assisting principal investigators with publication of administration studies in peer review journals, assisting with the coordination of additional RMTC research projects and request for research proposals, coordinating the development of an RMTC/RCI laboratory accreditation and quality assurance program, acting as an RMTC liaison to the IFHA, AORC, ICRAV and racing laboratories with emphasis on prohibited substances and practices, and assisting the executive director in coordinating daily operations of the RMTC and helping to provide supervision of the office staff. Other duties and responsibilities may be assigned from time to time by the executive director.

Qualified applicants will have a college degree and post graduate degree. A strong background in chemistry and scientific writing with a history of publication is required, as well as experience working in drug testing and/or related fields and research projects. Desired knowledge and skills include experience with statistical analysis software and thorough understanding of drug testing laboratory standards, protocols and equipment, along with basic PC skills, such as word processing, PowerPoint and spreadsheet packages.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply by contacting Rebecca Allison at (859) 224-2844 or rallison@rmtcnet.com.

Upcoming Conferences

The International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians (ICRAV) 2010 Conference will be held at the Millennium Hotel in Queenstown, New Zealand, March 7-10. Held every other year, the conference is the essential forum for stakeholders to address scientific issues confronting the industry. It is typically attended by regulatory veterinarians and senior laboratory management and research scientists from racing labs around the world. Participants will exchange information that will enable better direction of scientific efforts and make recommendations to racing authorities. This dissemination of knowledge and ideas is crucial to maintaining and strengthening the sport's integrity.

ICRAV is organized by the Association of Official Racing Chemists and the International Group of Specialist Racing Veterinarians, two groups charged to provide scientific support to the world's racing authorities. The program will include topics such as drug metabolism, welfare

and regulatory issues, instrumental techniques, use and control of therapeutic substances, drug analysis, pharmacology and pharmacodynamics, biotechnology, gene-doping and proteomics.

2010 Conference Dates

March 7-10: ICRAV
March 8-11: HTA/TRA Joint Annual Meeting
April 12-15: RCI Annual Conference



To learn more about the ICRAV 2010 Conference, visit their website at www.icrav2010.com

2009 Donors to Date

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The Hambletonian Society	United States Trotting Association
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New Jersey Approves New Anabolic Steroid Regulations

In mid-December, the New Jersey Racing Commission (NJRC) approved new anabolic steroids regulations for Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing in that state. The testing program is expected to possibly be in place by the end of January and will mirror those in surrounding states. Testing will be conducted for boldenone, nandrolone, stanozolol and testosterone. Trainers whose horses test above the permitted levels of those drugs will face a fine of \$1,000 and a 45-day suspension for the first violation, \$2,500 fine and 90-day suspension for the second offense and a permanent loss of license for a third offense. Penalties will begin being enforced on the 121st day after the adoption date of the new regulations. During the first 120 days, horses that test in violation of the rule will be disqualified from the race and will not earn purse money. The horse will also be ineligible to compete in the state for at least 30 days.

"This issue came to the regulators as an industry proposal to eliminate what was viewed to be a practice that was unsafe and struck at the integrity of horse racing," NJRC Executive Director Frank Zanzuccki said.

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Our Mission

The RMTC strives to develop, promote and coordinate, at the national level, policies, research and educational programs that seek to ensure the fairness and integrity of racing and the health and welfare of racehorses and participants, and to protect the interests of the racing public.



More Industry News

AAEP Racing Committee to Address Vet-Trainer-Owner Issues

AAEP Racing Committee Chair Dr. Scott Palmer announced that work is near completion on a best practice paper that will set standards for how veterinarians treat various conditions in racehorses. The committee also intends to address the veterinarian-trainer-owner relationship and will make recommendations on how it can operate more efficiently.

"We need to be cleaning our own house and working internally to do what we can to improve the veterinary business model," said Palmer. "The term 'best practice' is used in other industries to define recommendations for what the ideal would be. This isn't a perfect world, so the other aspect of our goal is that we have to define best practice in a realistic way so that we can get buy-in from the people who are involved. It's all well and good for us to take an ivory tower approach to a problem and say this is the best thing we should be doing, but if we can't do it, whether it's for economic reasons or for logistical reasons, then we have to find some sort of middle ground without lowering the bar so much that it's not a 'best practice.' "



Photo by Laura Plato

The veterinarian-trainer-owner relationship is an important issue because the typical way it operates can create confusion, according to Palmer.

"One of the things we're going to do is encourage veterinarians to construct their billing procedures in such a way that there is more information contained in a bill. There won't be a complete medical record of the horse, but there will at least be some information that will indicate to the owner what the diagnosis is and that can lead to some discussion, perhaps."

Three Pennsylvania Stakes No Longer Graded in 2010

The Pennsylvania Derby, Fitz Dixon Cotillion Stakes and Presque Isle Downs Masters Stakes all lost their graded status in 2009 due to the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission's failure to follow a more extensive drug testing protocol. Their grades will be reinstated by the American Graded Stakes Committee in 2010, assuming that more stringent analytical tests will be conducted on samples collected from horses competing in Pennsylvania stakes races in the upcoming year.

AQHA to Implement New Drug Testing and Welfare Initiatives

Starting January 1, the AQHA will be implementing a new drug testing and show processing fee of \$5 per horse per show, collected by show management. The fee will go toward increasing the scope and depth of drug testing and the development of a stewards program to monitor human welfare at AQHA shows. The previous drug testing fee of \$3 per horse totaled \$875,000 in 2009, but testing fees alone amassed to more than \$1 million at AQHA shows and the world championship shows, not including administrative costs or expenditures for hearings or positive tests.

"Due to the importance we place on ensuring the welfare of the horse and the integrity of AQHA competition, the association has been subsidizing the drug testing program to this point. Those more directly involved in show competition will now accept a larger share of the burden. This fee increase is necessary to ensure we have a sound testing program and to develop a way to monitor animal welfare at AQHA events," said Gary Carpenter, AQHA executive director of breed integrity and animal welfare.