



# **Recommendations of The Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit**

**Keeneland Sales Pavilion  
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## PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Rick Arthur	Butch Lehr
Dr Ernie Bailey	Ed Martin
Chris Baker	Chris McCarron
Remi Bellocq	Dr. Wayne McIlwraith
Dr. Jeff Blea	Dr. Reid McLellan
Ned Bonnie	Dan Metzger
Paul Bowlinger	Dennis Moore
Dr. Larry Bramlage	David Nash
Jordyn Brand	Nick Nicholson
Doug Bredar	Steve Norman
Dr. Tom Brokken	Dr. Bryce Peckham
Kimberly Brown	Dr. Mick Peterson
Peter Burnett	Dr. Hiram Polk
Bill Casner	Stephanie Preston
Dr. Don Catlin	Doug Reed
Pat Day	Thomas R Robbins
Sara Dorman	Geoffrey Russell
Craig Fravel	Dr. Mary Scollay
Dr. Rob Gillette	Richard Shapiro
Joe Gorajec	Dr. Jim Smith
Dell Hancock	Dr. Sue Stover
John Harris	Mitch Taylor
Peggy Hendershot	Richard Tedesco
Dr. Preston Hickman	Lisa Underwood
Dr. Ted Hill	Frank (Scoop) Vessels
Tom Jenkins	Ed Vomacka
Fran Jurga	Ric Waldman
Guy Lamothe	Mike Young
Dr. Gary Lavin	

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Each of the following recommendations indicated by a number were developed by one of the seven separate working groups of the 2008 Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit. Each group was assigned separate topics from which to develop recommendations in light of the discussions on issues and actions in the prior working group discussions. These recommendations were then reviewed and critiqued by all of the participants.

The consensus of the participants was that these recommendations should be provided to all aspects of the horse racing industry for review and consideration of implementation by the potentially responsible entities.

### **RECOMMENDATION 1: TRACK SURFACES**

**Primary Objective: Promote consistent and safe track surfaces conditions**

**Related Objectives:**

- **Research potential causes of catastrophic injury**  
Review existing research and inform public and industry regarding other causes of musculoskeletal injury including microdamage, changes in training methods, unrecognized disease, potential role of rider, etc.
- **Develop a research and development model for synthetic, dirt and turf racing surfaces**
  - Complete the Peterson-McIlwraith research project
  - Develop procedures and methods to determine requirements such as shear strength, load bearing, etc., for new racing surfaces
  - Determine best practices for track maintenance
  - Link results from track maintenance monitoring to pre-race exam and injury data
  - Continue improvement of track maintenance equipment design and utilization
  - Research synthetic surface potentialities and feasibilities for Quarter Horses
- **Identify laboratory where material can be sent for analysis**
  - Provide track superintendents the ability to readily monitor changes in content of track surface materials
  - Investigate factors necessary to maintain track stability such as UV inhibitors, watering etc.
- **Establish daily reporting of maintenance on racetracks**
  - Provide maximum information for track management, owners, trainers, jockeys and racing public
  - Encourage availability of track surface testing equipment at every racetrack
  - Develop a system with objective numbers for validating a racetrack
  - Institute a database of daily maintenance of the main track and turf course

**Potential Responsible Participants & Funding Resources:**

- WSS Racing Surface Committee
- Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation
- Track surface vendors

- Track maintenance equipment vendors (John Deere)
- Thoroughbred Racing Associations of North America (TRA)
- Racetrack management
- Track superintendents (annual field days)
- Equine research coordination group (Grayson, Morris, AAEP & AQHA)
- RCI Model Rules Committee
- University of Arizona Symposium on Racing (Track Surface Panel)

**Possible Timeline:**

- To be determined by WSS Racing Surface Committee

**RECOMMENDATION 2: CATASTROPHIC INJURIES**

**Primary Objective: Reduce racing fatalities**

**Related Objectives:**

- **Support and promote the On-Track Injury Reporting Program**
  - Complete development, testing and implementation of InCompass interactive on-track injury reporting system and database
  - Encourage more racetracks and commissions to participate
  - Determine requirements and resources necessary to operate and maintain the system
- **Promote the adoption of necropsy programs in every jurisdiction**
  - Develop a standardized protocol and procedures for necropsy program.
  - Require all horses that die at racetracks and training centers be subject to a post-mortem examination.
- **Promote standardized pre-race exam protocol**
  - Develop a standardized protocol and procedures for pre-race examinations.
  - Encourage all racing jurisdictions to require pre-race examinations.
- **Attract and retain qualified regulatory and track practice veterinarians**
  - Form task force to further analyze problem and develop list of specific recommendations
  - Make regulatory veterinarian positions more desirable
    - Improve salary scale
    - Increase benefits
    - Help relieve student debt
    - Offer full-time positions instead of per diem employment
  - Encourage formation of an association of racetrack regulatory veterinarians
  - Require racing specific CE for racing license renewal for regulatory veterinarians and track practitioners
  - Make funds available on regional level to offer CE specific to track practitioners
  - Monthly information and education bulletin distributed by e-mail to regulatory veterinarians and track practitioners
  - Require commission medication rules & regulations be given to veterinarians upon licensing; consider test on rules & regulations for first-time licensees

- Regulatory vets must demonstrate sufficient knowledge of rules and competency prior to being hired

**Potential Responsible Participants & Funding Resources:**

- Grayson-Jockey Research Foundation
- InCompass Solutions
- Regulatory Veterinarians Committee
- AAEP
- RCI
- AVMA
- State veterinary universities

**Possible Timeline:**

- On-Track Injury Reporting System operational by July 1, 2008
- RCI Summer Board Meeting & AAEP December Convention agenda items
  - Necropsy program
  - Regulatory veterinarian salary & benefit package
  - CE and licensing requirements
  - Pre-race exam protocol
  - Monthly information and education bulletin
- Form task force on regulatory veterinarian issues by September 30, 2008, with recommendations by April 1, 2009
- All jurisdictions provide hardcopy of rules regulations to licensed veterinarians by January 1, 2009

**RECOMMENDATION 3: RACING MEDICATION AND DRUG TESTING LABORATORIES**

**Primary Objective: Develop a first-class drug testing infrastructure in the United States**

**Related Objectives:**

- **Develop an accreditation program for equine drug testing laboratories in the U.S.**
  - Develop a business plan to establish U.S. laboratory standards and accreditation requirements
  - Establish laboratory standard operating procedures and best practices
  - Establish ISO 17025 compliant laboratory accreditation program
  - Establish an effective proficiency and blind sample quality assurance program
- **Develop a research and development program for U.S. drug testing**
  - Develop a business plan for the analysis of U.S. equine drug testing infrastructure
  - Complete analysis of the most efficient and cost-effective drug testing infrastructure for U.S. equine industry
  - Establish a national equine drug testing research and reference laboratory
- **Regulation of medication usage in sales horses**
  - Conduct 2-year-old in training sales under the applicable state rules of racing
  - Conduct all yearling sales under uniform medication rules

- Reduced emphasis of fast works at 2-year-old in training sales
- Establish provisions for buyer to request and pay for post-sale drug testing with option to void sale for positive test
- Prohibit shockwave therapy within 30 days of a breeze or sale
- Prohibit intra-articular injections in sales yearlings
- Prohibit intra-articular injections for 2-year-old in training within 30 days of breeze or sale

**Potential Responsible Participants & Funding Resources:**

- Association of Official Racing Chemists (AORC)
- RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee
- Dr. Don Catlin's Anti-Doping Research Laboratory
- RCI Drug Testing Standards Committee
- World Anti-Doping Agency
- International Standards Organization
- TOBA Sales Integrity Task Force
- Sales companies
- The Jockey Club

**Possible Timeline:**

- Identify the most cost-effective way to run laboratories by July 1, 2008
- Produce a report with recommendations to the industry by November 1, 2008
- Develop and establish a lab proficiency program by November 1, 2008
- Identify goals and appropriate structure of laboratory accreditation by May 2009
- Full implementation of laboratory accreditation by 2010
- National equine drug testing research and reference laboratory established by 2010
- Adapt the rules of racing relative to medication rules for yearling sales by May 2009
- Pass RCI Model Rule requiring 2-year-old in training sales to be conducted under the applicable state rules of racing by May 2009
- Achieve full implementation of medication rules for yearling sales by 2010

**RECOMMENDATION 4: EDUCATION**

**Primary Objective:** Improve horse handling of frontline employees

**Related Objectives:**

- Expand Groom Elite Program nationwide
  - Facilitate current Groom Elite programs' requests
    - Increase funding from sponsoring tracks and horsemen's groups
    - Train and hire two to three part-time Groom Elite instructors
    - Purchase an additional set of Groom Elite course equipment
  - Develop a two- to three-day groom education program for smaller jurisdictions
  - Make Groom Elite certification mandatory for grooms within specified time frame of first license
  - Expand the H-3 visa program participation

- **Develop continuing education programs for trainers**
  - Pass RCI Model Rule requiring four hours annual CE for trainer's license renewal
  - Develop trainer's test study guidebook
  - Develop curriculum and template for half-day trainers' CE Programs
  - Continue publication of bi-monthly WSS "Horsemen's Update" newsletter
  - Continue to post pertinent articles and research abstracts on racehorse health at [www.grayson-jockeyclub.org/summit](http://www.grayson-jockeyclub.org/summit)

**Potential Responsible Participants & Funding Resources:**

- RCI Education Committee
- Groom Elite Program
- National HBPA
- Local horsemen's representative groups
- WSS Education & Licensing Committee
- Racing publications

**Possible Timeline:**

- H-3 visa program is on-going
- By November 2008
  - Implement H-3 pilot program (in progress)
  - Obtain three part-time certified instructors
  - Develop funding strategy and list of available grant sources
- Trainer CE model rule on RCI Model Rules Committee agenda in July 2008
- Trainer's test study guidebook by August 1, 2008
- Curriculum & template for half-day trainers' CE by July 1, 2008

**RECOMMENDATION 5: REGULATION**

**Primary Objective:** **Establish uniform regulation of medication and integrity issues**

**Related Objectives:**

- **Create a national regulatory structure (non-federalized)**
  - Identify enabling mechanism
  - Evaluate Canadian Pari-Mutuel Agency for applicability in the U.S.
  - Differentiate business from integrity issues
  - Inventory state funding for medication enforcement and racing integrity issues
  - Develop a consensus and buy-in from regulators and stakeholders
  - Form a national prosecution resource
  - Develop WADA member organization that sets national drug policy and laboratory standards

**Potential Responsible Participants & Funding Resources:**

- RCI
- RMTC
- NTRA
- AHC

- State racing commissions

**Possible Timeline**

- Differentiate business from integrity issues by August 1, 2008
- Evaluate CPMA for applicability in the U.S. by October 1, 2008
- Complete inventory of all states' funding mechanisms by December 31, 2008
- Complete responsible party approval by April 1, 2009
- Identify enabling mechanism by April 1, 2009

**RECOMMENDATION 6: IMPLEMENTATION**

**Primary Objective: Coordinate and promote racing industry's proactive efforts on issues regarding welfare and safety of the racehorse**

**Related Objectives:**

- **Recommend that all organizations adopt the following into their mission statements:**
  - "The welfare and safety of the horse is the guiding principle in the decision-making process of this organization."
- **Create an office or designate staff within existing organizations to direct, coordinate, and publicize all industry efforts in regards to the welfare and safety of the racehorse**
  - Coordinate the efforts to implement Welfare and Safety Summit recommendations
  - Conduct further research on welfare and safety issues
  - Identify public relations resources available within the industry to communicate horse racing's focus on welfare and safety
  - Create national media strategy, highlighting industry health and safety initiatives
- **Re-create the racing product**
  - Determine number of races and race dates necessary for optimal balance between track revenue and welfare and safety
  - Analyze and correct the current owner economic model

**Potential Responsible Participants & Funding Resources:**

- NTRA
- AQHA
- TRA
- TOBA
- National HBPA
- THA
- Tracks
- State horsemen's associations
- Gaming companies
- ADW companies

**Possible Timeline:**

- Form office or identify resources within 3-6 months
- Draft PR strategy to incorporate health and welfare message in industry internal and external communication and marketing within 3-6 months



## **RECOMMENDATION 7: RESPONSIBLE THOROUGHBRED OWNERSHIP**

**Primary Objective: Find Solutions for Unwanted Thoroughbreds**

**Related Objectives:**

- **Promote responsibility and accountability among owners and breeders**
  - Encourage the breeding and training of sound and durable horses to extend useful life and second careers
  - Develop educational campaign to stress owner responsibility, especially for new owners
  - Promote the benefits of and pathways to second careers for retired racehorses
  - Provide information on the options, costs and availability of humane euthanasia and disposal
- **Research federal and state laws, regulations and programs to encourage, facilitate and help fund retirement**
  - Explore legislative solutions in the form of tax incentives to encourage retirement efforts
  - Work with appropriate state and federal agencies and cooperative foundations and individuals to provide funding for retirement efforts
  - Seek alternative solutions such as sanctuaries and humane euthanasia centers

**Potential Responsible Participants & Funding Resources:**

- Unwanted Horse Coalition
- AHC
- AAEP
- AVMA
- USDA
- State veterinarians
- NTRA
- TOBA
- Consignors and Breeders Association (CBA)
- Breed registries

**Possible Timelines:**

- Support on-going efforts of UHC
- Identify new strategies at UHC & USDA Forum June 18, 2008, at AHC Convention
- Research and devise legislative strategy by December 2008

## **RECOMMENDATION 8: GENETIC DIVERSITY OF THE THOROUGHBRED**

**Primary Objective: Address large book size of stallions to determine if they can be detrimental either to the welfare of individual animals, to the breed in general, or to the economics of the industry**

**Related Objectives:**

- **Research the effects large stallion book sizes have on horses' health, genetic diversity of the Thoroughbred, and economic impact on the industry**
  - Review longevity and in-foal percentage records of stallions with large books and dual hemisphere stallions
  - Evaluate economic significance of large book sizes on the industry
  - Evaluate effect on genetic diversity and quality of the breed
  - Evaluate book size's relationship with a trend toward more breeding to sell versus breeding to race
  - Evaluate book size's relationship with pattern of early retirement of valuable stallions
  - Review Standardbred genetic study
- **Research legal, economic and practical implications of influencing stallion book size**
  - Review history of the Standardbred industry's adoption of rule to limit book size
  - Review available international legal opinions on limiting stallion book size
  - Survey breeders and geneticists on relative importance of genetic diversity
  - Research economic implications
  - Evaluate logistics of influencing breeders' behavior based on findings of the effects of unlimited stallion book size

#### **Potential Responsible Participants & Funding Resources**

- To be determined

#### **Possible Timeline**

- To be determined