WELFARE AND SAFETY OF THE RACEHORSE SUMMIT

Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has conducted eight Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summits since 2006.

Among the major accomplishments that have evolved from the summits are the Equine Injury Database; the Jockey Injury Database; the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory, which provides science-based testing of racing surfaces to enhance safety for horse and rider; a uniform trainer test and study guide; the racing surfaces white paper and publication of educational bulletins for track maintenance; the publication of stallion durability statistics; the Hoof: Inside and Out DVD, available in English and Spanish; modifications to model rules that enhance the protocol for horses working off of the veterinarian's list; partnered with the North American Racing Academy (NARA) to create a free online educational programing available to all jurisdictions for trainer continuing education; and the movement by state racing commissions to create regulations that void the claim of horses suffering fatalities during a race.

RACING SURFACES TESTING LABORATORY

The Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory is a non-profit (501c3) organization that coordinates and carries out testing of surfaces for performance and race horses. The lab strives to compare a wide range of surfaces used in the horse racing industry. Comparative data will be compiled based on testing from the laboratory and cooperating partner laboratories and will create a basis for a comparative database. Fully documented procedures for all tests developed by Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory will be provided to the industry for use in performing comparison tests in other laboratories. At times, to conserve time or money, it is expected that results from local agricultural or construction laboratories may be used by racetracks and training centers. However, many newer techniques may be beyond the capabilities of standard labs, or specialized testing equipment may be unavailable to them. In these cases, Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory can provide the necessary testing. As methods become more commonly used, the open procedures will allow tests to be duplicated at local university laboratories, testing laboratories, or, in some cases, even at the track or training center. Even so, previous laboratory testing results have proven to be inconsistent and a central laboratory is needed as a reference laboratory for the industry.

Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory will commit to providing laboratory resources with timely response for all relevant tests. The comparative results database will be developed in conjunction with the maintenance database and the injury database developed by the Jockey Club. As new methods tailored to the unique needs of racing and performance horse surfaces evolve, Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory will serve a necessary role in the development of standards for racing surfaces.
Track Surface

Performance Parameters for Engineering Track Management
Colorado State University
Principal Investigator: C.Wayne McIlwraith

Effects of Dirt, Turf & Polytrack Racing Surfaces on Hoof Loads
University of California - Davis
Principal Investigator: Susan Stover

Validation of Laboratory Assessment of Track Surfaces
University of California - Davis
Principal Investigator: Susan Stover

Race Surface Optimization for Fetlock Injury Prevention
University of California - Davis
Principal Investigator: Susan Stover & Mont Hubbard

MUSCULOSKELETAL

Serum Markers for Detection of Musculo-Skeletal Injury in Horses
Colorado State University
Principal Investigator: David Frisbie & R. Clark Billinghurst

Effects of Early Exercise on Osteochondral Tissues
Colorado State University
Principal Investigator: Christopher Kawcak

Effects of Joint Geometry on Fetlock Joint Disease
Colorado State University
Principal Investigator: Chris Kawcak

Incidence of Nonfatal Injuries in Racing Thoroughbreds
Colorado State University
Principal Investigator: C.Wayne McIlwraith

Contrast Enhanced CT for Detection of Cartilage Injury
Colorado State University
Principal Investigator: Christopher Kawcak

The Safety of Shockwave Therapy in Performance Horses
Iowa State University
Principal Investigator: Scott McClure

A Dynamometric Horseshoe for Assessing Forces Associated with Racing Surfaces
University of California - Davis
Principal Investigator: Maury Hull

Optimization of Racetrack Surface Properties
University of California - Davis
Principal Investigator: Susan Stover

Training And Surfaces For Injury Prevention - Part I
University of California - Davis
Principal Investigator: Susan Stover

Track Banking & Asymmetry of Hoof Loading
University of Guelph
Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Thomason

The Horse-Racetrack Interface: the Effect of Shoeing on Impact Trauma
University of Pennsylvania
Principal Investigator: David Nunamaker

Does Suspensory Apparatus Injury or Its Risk Factors Increase Risk for Metacarpal Condylar Fracture in the Thoroughbred Racehorse?
University of California - Davis
Principal Investigator: Susan Stover

Epidemiology of Proximal Sesamoid Fractures in Thoroughbreds
University of California - Davis
Principal Investigator: Susan Stover

Pet Imaging Of The Equine Distal Limb
University of California, Davis
Principal Investigator: Mathieu Spriet

Detection of Lameness in Racehorses at the Gallop EPM
University of Missouri
Principal Investigator: Kevin Keegan

Further Evaluation of the Effect of Shoeing on Impact Trauma in the Racehorse
University of Pennsylvania
Principal Investigator: David Nunamaker

Effects of Toe Grabs on the locomotor Patterns of Galloping Horses
Washington State University
Principal Investigator: Marc H. Ratzlaff