



Thoroughbred Racing Associations

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September 7, 2012

Mr. Jon Amores
Executive Director
West Virginia Racing Commission
900 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 533
Charleston, WV 25302

Dear Mr. Amores:

The Board of Directors of the Thoroughbred Racing Associations (TRA) of North America, Inc., met in Baltimore in May of 2012 to review medication policies in the United States and overwhelmingly and unambiguously agreed to support a number of the model rules adopted by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) in accord with recommendations by the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (RMTC).

The TRA is a trade organization of 48 member associations racing at 41 tracks in the United States and Canada, including Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.

The TRA membership believes the sport of pari-mutuel Thoroughbred racing critically needs uniform medication policies protecting the safety of the horse and jockey and the interests of the wagering public.

Among the medications discussed by the Board was furosemide (Salix). Although the TRA did not take a position either endorsing or opposing race-day administration of furosemide, its members firmly support and advocate the adoption of the RCI Model Rule restricting the administration of race-day furosemide to third-party veterinarians (or techs) designated or authorized by the racing commission.

As vice chairman of RMTC, the equine industry's consortium of tracks, horsemen, veterinarians, breeders, breed registries, jockeys, racing commissions, and other vested stakeholders, I would like to assure you the idea of third-party administration was thoroughly discussed in a number of Board meetings and finally recommended as a means of effectively preserving the integrity of each day's racing.

If there are to be race-day medication administrations, the public and the other competitors must be assured of their strict conformity to commission regulations. RMTC concluded and the TRA agreed reducing or altogether restricting race-day access by private veterinarians to "in-today" horses would significantly enhance the ability of track and commission personnel to monitor backstretch activities.

If West Virginia regulations continue to permit race-day use of furosemide, the TRA strongly urges the adoption of the RCI Model Rule mandating third-party administration. Since the TRA Board meeting, the Kentucky and Delaware Racing Commissions have mandated third-party administration. It has also been implemented at Penn National and is in the process of being adopted in California.

If you have any questions or would like further information from TRA, or RMTC, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Christopher N. Scherf
Executive Vice President