

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
March 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 9:05am by Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

Mr. Robert Gage, California State Horsemen's Association
Dr. Marta Grandstedt, California Veterinary Medical Association
Dr. Neil Gray, California Professional Horsemen's Association
Ms. Nancy Harvey, Arabian Horse Association
Ms. Landy Hedlund, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association
Dr. Jeanette Mero, American Endurance Ride Conference
Ms. Kalia Mitchell, California Fairs and Expositions
Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, California Dressage Society
Mr. William Pettis, American Morgan Horse Association
Dr. Chris Smith, Pacific Coast Horse Show Association
Ms. Rae Stambuk, California Reining Horse Association
Dr. Mike Tomlinson, U.S. Equestrian Federation
Dr. Stephen Schumacher, U.S. Equestrian Federation (non-voting member)

Absent:

Ms. Jody Cutler, American Driving Society
Ms. Cathy Hanson, Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association
Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, California Draft Horse & Mule Association
Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Dr. Russell Peterson, American Association of Equine Practitioners

CDFA Present:

Dr. Emily Nietrzeba, Staff Veterinarian, Equine Programs
Ms. Katie Hatch, Research Scientist, Equine Programs
Mr. Lee Harrison, Agricultural Program Supervisor, EMMP
Ms. Nancy Ragen, Management Services Technician, EMMP

Others Present:

Dr. Katie Flynn, U.S. Equestrian Federation
Ms. Hope Marshall, Sonoma County Fair
Ms. Maria Hines, CSHA Trail Trials

(3) Review of Minutes

Minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION #1: Mr. William Pettis motioned to approve the minutes as written and Ms. Kalia Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion was

unanimously approved. Chair and Ms. Landy Hedlund abstained from voting.

(4) Advisory Committee Updates

The EMMP advisory committee (EMMPAC) welcomed Ms. Landy Hedlund as the representative for the Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association.

(5) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Update

Dr. Stephen Schumacher gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). USEF brought forward the requirement in 2021 for certain disciplines to be microchipped in order to be eligible to compete. There was push back from some disciplines so the rule was withdrawn for now and will be reviewed and voted on in the June 2023 USEF board meeting. If it is voted forward at this meeting, horses would be required to be microchipped in order to get points at any USEF event as of December 1, 2024. By December 1, 2025, horses would not be able to compete at USEF events if not microchipped. Microchips are highly beneficial for tracking during disease incidents, reuniting horses with their owners in the case of natural disasters and the biothermal microchips can be used as a quick and easy method of taking the horse's temperature.

USEF recently hired Dr. Katie Flynn as the Senior Staff Veterinarian for Equine Health and Biosecurity. She will be the subject matter expert for event biosecurity plans and will be traveling to show grounds to assist with creating these plans as necessary. She will also be in charge of outreach and education for biosecurity and equine health for USEF.

(6) Animal Health Updates

Equine Diseases

Dr. Emily Nietrzeba and Ms. Katie Hatch presented California's equine health updates on the following topics: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) and Equine herpesvirus (EHV).

In 2022, there have been forty (40) Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) cases in California, which is more than the number of cases in 2014-2021 combined. All of these cases have been Quarter Horses between the ages of three (3) to seven (7) years old, with either a confirmed or suspected history of unsanctioned racing. The majority of these cases are suspected to be due to iatrogenic transmission with the sharing of used needles as the primary method of disease spread. These forty (40) cases have been located on nine (9) premises throughout California with twenty-four (24) located at one premises in Tulare County. Two (2) additional EIA cases in California and one (1) in Colorado were purchased from this Tulare County premises as well.

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there have been five (5) EHM incidents. The first of which was in Los Angeles County in October 2022, when a

33-year-old Quarter Horse gelding was febrile and neurologic and was euthanized. There were no additional cases on this premises and the quarantine was released after twelve (12) days (fifteen days after the euthanasia of the positive horse). The second incident was in Riverside County in December 2022 when a 14-year-old Quarter Horse mare displayed mild neurological signs. There were no additional cases on this premises and the quarantine was released after twenty-three (23) days. The third incident was in San Luis Obispo County in February 2023, when a 9-year-old Quarter Horse mare became neurologic and was euthanized. This mare had attended a large western discipline event in Texas previous to becoming neurologic. No additional cases were confirmed on the home premises or on any other premises in California associated with the event. Quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days. The fourth incident is currently occurring in Los Angeles County in March 2023, when a 19-year-old Saddlebred gelding became neurologic and was euthanized. The quarantine is currently in place with no additional cases confirmed. The fifth incident is currently occurring in Riverside County in March 2023, when a 17-year-old polo horse mare became neurologic and was euthanized. There are currently 9 directly exposed horses on premises under mandatory quarantine, and the entire polo facility is currently under voluntary quarantine. Epidemiological tracing and assessment is actively ongoing.

(7) Program Updates

Administrative Updates

Mr. Lee Harrison gave an update on the EMMP contract veterinarians. Per the advisory committee's vote at the September 2022 meeting, EMMP increased compensation rates for contract veterinarians. They are now getting compensated at \$50 per sample, along with a \$100 per diem service fee to cover travel and other associated costs.

Program Data Summary

Ms. Katie Hatch presented the following program summary data for the 2022 calendar year (CY):

- A total of 1026 EMMP sanctioned events were registered, and 810 events were held.
- Seventy-nine (79) events were tested by EMMP.
- A total of 69,770 horses were entered into EMMP events.
- A total of 184 urine samples and 92 blood samples were collected from selected horses at EMMP registered events.
- The 2022 EHV outbreak had a large impact on the number of events held and therefore the number of horses entered into events and the number of shows tested and samples collected.

Legal Update

Dr. Emily Nietrzeba discussed the fee increase that was implemented. It went into effect as of June 1, 2022 but a grace period was extended through July 1,

2022 for events that had already been planned. The fee increase is helping to stabilize the financials of EMMP. The EMMPAC discussed the continued desire to increase the fee exemption limits as they have not increased in conjunction with the fee increases. This change would need to be sponsored by the equine industry via a state senator or political representative as this would be a change to the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC). The advisory committee needs to identify a sponsor to move forward with this code change. Dr. Nietrzeba also discussed that if the fee exemption limits were moved from the FAC to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), then it would be easier to update the fee exemption limits in the future.

MOTION #2: Ms. Nancy Harvey motioned to take the dollar amounts for the fee exemption limits out of California Food and Agricultural Code and move them to the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Ms. Jaclyn Pepper seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

Financial Update

There was a delay in the financial reporting so a supplemental meeting will need to happen in May or June 2023 to discuss the budget and financial planning.

(8) Research Proposal

Dr. Russ Hovey, a UC Davis Animal Science professor, gave a presentation on a potential future research project on "Implication on teff hay consumption and potential synephrine detection in blood and urine". Teff hay is a high yielding, quick producing hay that is water efficient which makes it ideal for California's climate. It also is low in soluble carbohydrates, high in protein, highly palatable and has minimal waste. However, the substance synephrine can be found in teff hay. Synephrine is similar to ephedrine and can show up on drug screens. The proposed studies would like to look at the levels of synephrine in teff hay at various stages of growth and from different sources, the pharmacokinetics of horses after ingesting teff hay, what the accumulation levels of synephrine would be in the horses and how quickly it clears out of the horses' systems.

MOTION #6: Ms. Nancy Harvey motioned to approve funding for Dr. Hovey's study. Ms. Kalia Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

(9) Committee New Business Discussion

No new items were discussed. The supplemental budget meeting will be held in May or June 2023. A full advisory committee meeting is planned for September where the committee bylaws will be discussed.

(10) Closing Comments

Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 10:40am.