

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
October 29, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 9:04am by Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

Dr. Stephanie Flowers, California Veterinary Medical Association
Mr. Robert Gage, California State Horsemen's Association
Ms. Sofia Goss, California Fairs and Expositions
Ms. Nancy Harvey, Arabian Horse Association
Ms. Kathy Hobstetter, California Professional Horsemen's Association
Dr. Jeanette Mero, American Endurance Ride Conference
Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, California Dressage Society
Dr. Russell Peterson, American Association of Equine Practitioners
Mr. William Pettis, American Morgan Horse 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. Landy Hedlund, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association
Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, California Draft Horse & Mule Association
Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Dr. Chris Smith, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association

CDFA Present:

Dr. Joshua Kloeppel, Staff Veterinarian, Equine Programs
Ms. Katie Hatch, Research Scientist, Equine Programs
Mr. Lee Harrison, Agricultural Program Supervisor, EMMP
Ms. Christina Murphy, Management Services Technician, EMMP

Others Present:

Ms. Deb Shatley
Ms. Ruth Carrero
Ms. Emily LaBelle

(3) Review of Minutes

Minutes of the March 26, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION #1: Ms. Rae Stambuk motioned to approve the minutes as written and Ms. Nancy Harvey seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

(4) Advisory Committee Updates

The EMMP advisory committee bylaws and strategic plan were due to be reviewed and approved.

MOTION #2: Ms. Nancy Harvey motioned to approve the EMMP Advisory Committee Bylaws as written and Ms. Kathy Hobstetter seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

The advisory committee would like to further discuss the EMMP Advisory Committee Strategic Plan at a later date in order to update the wording.

(5) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Update

Dr. Josh Kloeppel gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) as Dr. Stephen Schumacher from USEF was not available. USEF has finalized the rule that Altrenogest and Progesterone medications are prohibited in geldings and stallions.

Several new rules going into effect as of December 1, 2024, are related to the isolation and biosecurity plans at USEF events. All associated people at USEF events must adhere to the competition's isolation and biosecurity plan, as well as state and federal rules and regulations. Additionally, competitors will now be required to report any fevers to the event veterinarian or event management within one hour of detection.

(6) Animal Health Updates

Equine Diseases

Dr. Josh Kloeppel presented California's equine health updates on the following topics: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Equine herpesvirus (EHV) and West Nile Virus (WNV). Equine disease updates are given during these meetings for situational awareness as disease incidents can directly affect equine events and both horse and equestrian safety and welfare.

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there have been two (2) EHM incidents. The first case was in June 2024 in El Dorado County when two geldings became neurologic. Twenty-eight (28) horses on the home premises were quarantined and there were no additional cases. The second case was in September 2024 in San Diego County when a 2-year-old Thoroughbred filly became neurologic and was euthanized. Thirty-eight (38) horses on the home premises were quarantined and there were no additional cases.

So far in 2024, there have been fifteen (15) Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) cases. The first case began in Riverside County in September 2023 when a 4-year-old racing Quarter Horse gelding tested positive and was euthanized. Out of the twenty-four (24) exposed horses, three (3) additional horses tested positive for EIA and were euthanized in October 2023. One (1) additional horse tested

positive on the 60-day retest in January 2024. The remaining horses on the premises tested negative in March 2024 and were released from quarantine. The second set of cases was in March 2024 in Los Angeles County when a 4-year-old and 8-year-old Quarter Horse geldings tested positive for EIA. Ten (10) exposed horses on the premises were negative on their 60-day retest and were released from quarantine in May 2024. In September 2024, a 2-year-old Quarter Horse stallion was confirmed positive for EIA on a sanctioned racetrack in Orange County. This stallion had a recent history of moving with a cohort of nine (9) other horses from New Mexico. All horses had recent valid negative EIA tests but six (6) out of the nine horses tested positive on the initial test in this investigation. The other three (3) horses tested positive a month later during follow up regulatory testing. Thirty-six (36) additional horses under this same trainer at the sanctioned racetrack were tested and there were two (2) additional positives which leads to the current case count of twelve (12) confirmed positives as part of this cohort. There are eleven (11) other positive EIA cases in Texas and New Mexico who were linked to the same trainer.

In 2024, there have been seven (7) total cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) so far. The age range of infected horses was 3-16 years. Of the seven (7) cases, one (1) was unvaccinated, three (3) were under vaccinated, one (1) was vaccinated and two (2) had an unknown vaccine status. Six (6) horses are alive and recovering, and one (1) horse died or were euthanized. Cases were located in Los Angeles (1), Placer (1), Sacramento (1), San Diego (1), San Joaquin (2), Tehama (1), and Yuba (1) Counties.

(7) Program Updates

Administrative Updates

Mr. Lee Harrison gave an update on the EMMP staffing. There are currently seven (7) EMMP testers as there were two (2) testers hired recently, one (1) in Sacramento County and one (1) in Riverside County. There are also five (5) equine veterinarians contracted with EMMP for 2024.

Mr. Katie Hatch gave an update on the EMMP outreach. The poster stating that California law supersedes organizational rules, so that even if a medication is allowed under an event's hosting organization, it can still be prohibited under the California Equine Medication Rule, has been going out to event managers in their packets. The advisory committee requested adding a second QR code that goes straight to the EMMP Drug and Medication Guidelines, so now that is on the posters as well as the original QR code for the EMMP website.

Program Data Summary

Ms. Katie Hatch presented the following program summary data for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (FY):

- A total of 1147 EMMP sanctioned events were registered, and 856 events were held.
- Seventy-seven (77) events were tested by EMMP.

- A total of 83,771 horses were entered into EMMP events.
- A total of 216 urine samples and 123 blood samples were collected from selected horses at EMMP registered events.

Legal Update

There have been ten (10) drug violations closed so far in 2024. Six (6) of these were for prohibited substances and four (4) were permissible medication overages.

Dr. Josh Kloeppel discussed that there was some language clarified on the EMMP website and brochures in regard to the current fee exemption limits. 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). Ms. Kathy Hobstetter discussed that she has been working with various legislative offices to get this moving forward.

Financial Update

There are currently forty-eight (48) unpaid events from the 2023-2024 fiscal year (FY). EMMP staff is working with event managers to get them paid. EMMP also requests that advisory committee members reach out to the event managers for their respective disciplines to encourage prompt payment of fees.

Mr. Harrison presented the revenue and expenditures for the 2023-2024 FY. In this fiscal year, EMMP is no longer working at a budget deficit. There will be increased expenditures in the 2024-2025 FY due to increasing testing, hiring more EMMP testers, contract veterinarian fees, laboratory testing fees and adding another research project back to EMMP.

(8) Research Update

Dr. Russ Hovey from the UC Davis Animal Science Department is working on the EMMPAC approved study on "Implication on teff hay consumption and potential synephrine detection in blood and urine". Dr. Hovey got two cuttings of teff hay from last season, did validation analysis on the hay and there were high levels of synephrine in the hay. He is planning on doing the feeding part of the study this winter with project completion anticipated by the end of 2024.

EMMP is currently looking into funding a second research project. Dr. Knych and Dr. Moeller from the UC Davis laboratories provided some potential project ideas. The EMMPAC discussed various options and the first proposal was to do a study on metformin.

MOTION #3: Ms. Kathy Hobstetter motioned to approve EMMP funding a study at UC Davis for metformin and Ms. Nancy Harvey seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously declined after discussion. Chair abstained from voting.

Other options were discussed and the second proposal was to do a study on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the intramuscular corticosteroids isoflupredone and betamethasone to look at inflammatory biomarkers.

MOTION #4: Ms. Kathy Hobstetter motioned to approve EMMP funding a study at UC Davis for isoflupredone and betamethasone and Dr. Russ Peterson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

(9) Public Comment

Ms. Deb Shatley, the incoming president for the Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association, commented that they will work on nominating a new EMMPAC board member. She also agreed with EMMPAC working on the fee exemption increase. Ms. Emily LaBelle who is the president of a local horse show association also agreed with the fee exemption increase.

(10) Committee New Business Discussion

No new items were discussed. The next advisory committee meeting is planned for March or April 2025.

(11) Closing Comments

Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 10:50am.