

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
February 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 10:01am by Chairperson Ms. Sandy Arledge.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

Ms. Sandy Arledge, Chair, California Farm Bureau Federation
Ms. Jody Cutler, American Driving Society
Mr. Robert Gage, California State Horsemen's Association
Dr. Marta Grandstedt, California Veterinary Medical Association
Ms. Nancy Harvey, Arabian Horse Association
Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, California Draft Horse & Mule Association
Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Dr. Jeanette Mero, American Endurance Ride Conference
Ms. Kalia Mitchell, California Fairs and Expositions
Ms. Mari Naten, California Dressage Society
Ms. Christine Oswald, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association
Dr. Russell Peterson, American Association of Equine Practitioners
Mr. William Pettis, American Morgan Horse Association
Ms. Sarah Rajoy, California Professional Horsemen's 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. Karen Dagnan, Equestrian Trails, Inc.
Dr. Chris Smith, Pacific Coast Horse Show Association
Ms. Julia Tarnawski, National Plantation Walking Horse Association

CDFA Present:

Dr. Kent Fowler, Chief, Animal Health Branch
Dr. Katie Flynn, 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
Dr. Elise Chad, Staff Veterinarian, Animal Health Branch

Others in Attendance:

Dr. Heather Knych, Professor, UC Davis California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory

(3) Review of Minutes

Minutes of the October 9, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION #1: Mr. Robert Gage motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. Mike Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

(4) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Update

Dr. Stephen Schumacher gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). In 2017, USEF initially was going to make medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA) a prohibited substance but the industry asked for it to be still be allowed due to therapeutic effects. An MPA panel was appointed and that panel reviewed the MPA disclosure forms that have been required since September 2017. As of December 1, 2019, MPA is now a prohibited substance for USEF, however enforcement will not begin until June 2020 so horses can be withdrawn from it. MPA is currently a controlled medication (allowed in horses, but not in horses under competition) for Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) but they are considering making it a banned substance. MPA is not able to be regulated by EMMP due to it not yet falling under the drug categories included in the California Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) or California Code of Regulations (CCR). The committee requested EMMP get information on how hormone based medications could be classified and to see what it would take to get the change to FAC and CCR done.

FEI banned six bisphosphonates so USEF now requires a Medication Report Form (MRF) to be filled out if a horse is administered Tildren or Osphos within twenty-eight days of competition. Additionally, these bisphosphonates are not allowed to be used in horses under four years of age (according to FDA label). The original USEF rule stated that these medications could not be used off-label. However, since they are currently labeled for only navicular disease, USEF is allowing Tildren and Osphos to be used for other treatments. The goal is that only one MRF will need to be filled out per 28-day period. All other bisphosphonates will be considered prohibited substances under USEF.

Another recent rule change for USEF is that competition managers must notify USEF if they have an infectious disease case at their event, even if it is a suspect case. USEF will then determine if they should notify the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) to distribute information to the public. USEF sends out a packet of information to the veterinarians who work their events with information on biosecurity and the Drug and Medications Rules so they know to report infectious disease suspects or cases to USEF.

Dr. Schumacher also discussed dipyron, which is a medication that was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the control of fever in equines. As dipyron is only labeled for fever and not for anti-inflammatory properties, USEF doesn't consider dipyron as a non-steroidal anti-

inflammatory drug (NSAID) so it does not count towards the dual NSAID rule (where stacking of multiple NSAIDs at one time is not allowed). EMMP does not have dipyrone listed in FAC and CCR as a permissible substance so it is considered a prohibited substance. However, there are no published studies yet on 24-hour levels for dipyrone so EMMP cannot pursue cases for now.

(5) Research Update

Dr. Heather Knych, Professor at the UC Davis K.L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory, presented an update on EMMP funded research studies. As dipyrone was recently approved by the FDA, it is back on the market for use in equines (was previously used before it was pulled from the market in the 1990s) and of interest to the committee as there are no published studies on 24-hour levels. Dr. Knych proposed a study where the laboratory would give a dose of 30 mg/kg intravenously to twelve exercised Thoroughbred research horses. Blood and urine concentration levels of dipyrone would be measured, and a pharmacokinetic analysis would also be performed.

MOTION #2: Ms. Nancy Harvey motioned to have EMMP fund a study on dipyrone and Dr. Mike Tomlinson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Knych discussed the ongoing bisphosphonate research project, which includes sample collections for drug concentration analysis, transcriptomics (gene biomarkers) and protein biomarkers as well as radiographs and PET imaging. This is a joint project with multiple groups, including the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) and the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTTC).

Lastly, Dr. Knych provided an overview of the extensive approval process for the Cannabidiol (CBD) project and reported that the CBD was delivered on the morning of the meeting. The laboratory also developed an assay to look at the levels of CBD and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in various products. The plan is to start the administration portion of the project in early March 2020.

(6) Program Updates Committee Updates

Dr. Katie Flynn welcomed the new EMMP advisory committee members and discussed the organizations that EMMP is still looking for a representative from. She also discussed the requirements for all board members. The committee discussed that there was recently an Assembly Bill proposed regarding the Bagley-Keene open meeting act in which all materials given to committee members at meetings, and the presentation slides would be posted online. As required by the EMMP committee bylaws, they must be reviewed every other year.

MOTION #3: Dr. Mike Tomlinson motioned to approve the EMMP Advisory Committee Bylaws as written and Mr. Robert Gage seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Administrative Updates

Dr. Katie Flynn discussed the current personnel situation for EMMP. EMMP currently has twelve testers and six veterinarians. Recently EMMP had to enter into new agreements with the veterinarians that limits the number of samples allowed per year per veterinarian. The northern California crew chief resigned due to going to graduate school so EMMP just recently hired a new tester in the Sacramento area.

Program Data Summary

Ms. Katie Hatch presented the following program summary data for the 2019 calendar year:

- A total of 1,136 events were held (slightly less than the previous two calendar years)
- 342 events were tested, including 11 events being tested multiple days and 25 events tested with multiple testers at the same event
- A total of 558 urine samples and 674 blood samples were collected from selected horses at EMMP registered events. The decrease in blood samples this fiscal year was due in large part to the new agreement process for veterinarians.
- The highest number of events by event type were hunter/jumper events then dressage and open (multi-breed/multi-discipline) events. Note, these numbers are based on event type listed by the event manager at the time of event registration.
- Most testing was done on the weekends (Saturday and Sunday) but there was an increase of the number of events tested during the week in 2018.

Ms. Hatch also discussed the tester observations performed by Mr. Lee Harrison, the number of hours spent at events by testers, and the urine sampling collection rate.

IT Update

Ms. Katie Hatch discussed the new reports that the Information Technology (IT) group has recently produced for EMMP. These include the Record of Sample Collection Data Export, Selections by Class Name, Selection Time Period Report, Selection Summary by Tester, Selection Details by Tester, Violations/Detections Detailed Report, Percentage of Equine Population Tested and Associated Individual Report. IT recently completed all of the highest priority fixes for the EMMP iPad application so a few select testers will be getting the iPad app to test out in the field.

Financial Update

For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, there are currently thirty-three events that have not paid their show fees (down from sixty-nine events after Mr. Harrison called the event managers). The fee increase from \$5 to \$8 was approved and became effective on January 1, 2020. EMMP updated the affected regulations, forms, brochures, and websites once the change was approved. They also notified EMP advisory committee members, presidents of California equine event organizations as well as paid advertisements with multiple magazines and online equestrian networks.

Dr. Katie Flynn discussed the costs that are due to increase in the near future for the EMMP. These include laboratory testing and research rates, M&O for IT, phones for testers, conference call lines and printing costs for the EMMP drug and medications guidelines booklets.

Dr. Flynn presented the current reserve for EMMP which stands at \$332,447, which is close to what was predicted. The committee discussed the proposed spending reduction plan including limiting the number of shows tested and samples collected, limiting the number of miles and hours for testers at events, and reducing the laboratory research down to one project.

MOTION #4: Mr. Robert Gage motioned to approve the proposed spending reduction plan and Ms. Christine Oswald seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Review of EMMP as Viable Program

Dr. Kent Fowler discussed with the committee the viability of the EMMP. Points included creating a safer and more level playing field for competition, the litigious nature of the program, operating costs, other testing done by USEF, exhibitor costs, and industry buy-in.

(7) Animal Health Updates

Equine Diseases

Ms. Katie Hatch presented California's animal health updates on the following topics: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1), West Nile Virus (WNV), Vesicular Stomatitis (VS), data from the California Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory and Coggins tests.

In January 2020, California had its first case of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) since 2017. A 24-year-old Paint mare was tested to travel out of state and tested positive for EIA. The mare was confirmed positive via a second regulatory test and was euthanized on January 24, 2020. There were no additional exposed horses on the property.

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there were three Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) incidents. The first was an incident in Alameda county in October 2019 when a 12-year-old Arabian mare became severely neurologic, was sent to an outside veterinary hospital for treatment, confirmed positive for Equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1), and was ultimately euthanized. An additional horse on the property also became neurologic and was sent to the outside veterinary clinic but recovered. Two other horses on the home premise became febrile and recovered. In total, sixty-four (64) horses on the home premise were quarantined and the quarantine was released after nineteen (19) days. The second incident was in San Bernardino county in November 2019 when a 12-year-old Quarter Horse mare tested positive for EHV-1 on necropsy. The home premise of twenty-one (21) exposed horses were quarantined and an additional three (3) horses became neurologic and six (6) horses became febrile. Two (2) of the neurologic horses were euthanized due to severity of neurologic signs. The quarantine was released after seventy-one (71) days due to extended shedding of virus from one horse. In January 2020, a 21-year-old Quarter Horse gelding in Santa Barbara county displaying severe neurologic signs was euthanized and confirmed for EHV-1. Two (2) exposed horses were placed under quarantine. A 6-year-old Quarter Horse mare displayed mild neurologic signs and an aged miniature horse gelding displayed a fever and both were confirmed positive for EHV-1. Quarantine was released after twenty-eight (28) days.

Ms. Hatch discussed the 2019 equine WNV cases. There was a total of fifteen (15) cases confirmed in 2019. Eight (8) of the affected horses were not vaccinated against WNV and six (7) had an unknown vaccine history. Three (3) of the WNV positive horses were euthanized and the other twelve (12) are alive and recovering. The age range of the infected horses was one (1) to twelve (12) years with an average age of 4.5 years.

Ms. Hatch discussed the recent Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) outbreak in the United States. It started on June 21, 2019 in Kinney County, Texas and affected eight states (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Kansas and Wyoming). All cases were affected with the Indiana strain which is the first time this strain of VS has been seen in the US since 1998. California had movement restrictions for animals coming from affected states, in which animals had to have a certificate of veterinary inspection written within seventy-two (72) hours of entry instead of the usual thirty (30) days. The last quarantine was released on December 27, 2019.

Ms. Hatch also discussed the number of positive samples in 2019 run at both the California Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory and the UC Davis Whittier Laboratory for infectious diseases such as Equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1), Equine herpesvirus-4 (EHV-4), Corynebacterium Pseudotuberculosis, Influenza and Streptococcus equi. Data presented also included analysis of the seasonality and geographical distribution of cases throughout California.

In October 2019, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released an updated guidance document for laboratories performing the Coggins test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). The highlights of this document include that laboratories must now check that all samples are being submitted from federally accredited Category II veterinarians prior to testing the sample; all fields in the form must be filled in or indicated as N/A or the laboratory should reject the form; by April 15, 2020, veterinarians must use the current approved form (dated February 2018) or an approved online system; and at the discretion of the laboratory, amended forms can be processed as long as they are received within 30 days of blood draw date, all previous distributed copies are returned to the laboratory and change of ownership is not one of the items being amended.

Ms. Hatch presented data on the Coggins run on California horses in 2019. Data included the number of paper vs. electronic Coggins, the reason listed for testing, the test type run, seasonality of testing, the number of veterinarians submitting Coggins, the number of form violations with missing or illegible information, the most common horse breeds, the number of tests performed on race horses, the gender of horses tested and the geographic distribution of horses tested in California.

Equine Movement and National Updates

Dr. Flynn gave an update on the Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI). Global Vet Link (GVL) fixed the veterinarian's signature issue which was needed before California would allow EECVIs to be accepted for transport into California or for California veterinarians to issue them.

Veterinarians must still examine the horse, fill out the EECVI and verify a current Coggins then the owner goes in and must obtain a permit prior to interstate movement. The EECVI is valid for up to six months from the date of issue.

Dr. Flynn presented the amount of incoming and outgoing health certificates, including the number of paper vs. electronic. Also presented was the number of shipments and horses coming into California via the border stations. The most common reason for import into California was for exhibition/show/race followed by companion/pet. The most common states of origin of the equines were Nevada, Arizona and Oregon.

Dr. Flynn discussed the recent equine health issues associated with international movement that were of concern, so a national working group was formed under the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA). The group worked to evaluate risks for imported equines and equine products, evaluate current protocols at import centers and border land ports, summarize disease incidents related to imported horse movement and identify potential solutions for the identified risks.

The committee also discussed a non-negative Glanders case that was imported into the Los Angeles Import Center (LAIC) in November 2019. Fifteen exposed

horses on the same flight as the non-negative horse were held for two weeks at the LAIC until they received a second negative test. The options for the non-negative horse were to return to the country of origin, retest for Glanders every seven (7) to fifteen (15) days or be euthanized. After multiple non-negative tests, the horse finally tested negative and was released from quarantine at LAIC after seventy-three (73) days. There was an option to have the horse move to a separate quarantine facility, however, no veterinary clinic could meet the specifications put forth by USDA.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) had their annual meeting in October 2019 and the committee put forth four (4) resolutions this year. This included abnormal health events at international import quarantine facilities, Contagious Equine Metritis import quarantine program state reviews, Equine Viral Arteritis international import requirements and Vesicular Stomatitis interstate import requirements.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) had their annual meeting in December and the Infectious Disease Committee discussed many topics including Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) reporting criteria for USEF events, infectious disease guidelines for EIA and Glanders, approved judicious use of antimicrobials policy, the racing health horse protocol, vaccine guidelines revised and to be published in 2020, and review of influenza data and vaccine recommendations.

Dr. Flynn also discussed an issue that was reported to her from practitioners and polo club managers of unlicensed vets from Argentina treating polo horses in southern California. There are regulatory concerns that if there was to be a reportable disease incident, that there would be a delay in reporting to CDFA which could increase disease spread and cause larger economic impacts for discontinuation of business. Also, unlicensed veterinarians are not legally allowed to write certificates of veterinary inspection or pull blood for EIA testing. Dr. Annette Jones, the California State Veterinarian, issued a letter to the California Veterinary Medical Board requesting an investigation into this situation.

(8) Committee New Business Discussion

No new items were discussed. The next meeting is tentatively planned for Wednesday, October 7, 2020 from 10am-3pm at the CDFA Gateway Oaks office in Sacramento. The committee would like to discuss equine carcass removal at the next meeting.

(9) Closing Comments

Mr. Robert Gage motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kalia Mitchell seconded the motion. Vice chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm.