

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee  
October 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Item No.

**(1) Call to Order**

- a. The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 10:05am by Vice chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson.

**(2) Roll Call**

**Present:**

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. 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  
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. Sandy Arledge, Chair, California Farm Bureau Federation  
Ms. Karen Dagnan, Equestrian Trails, Inc.  
Ms. Julia Tarnawski, National Plantation Walking Horse Association

**CDFA Present:**

Dr. Kent Fowler, Chief, Animal Health Branch  
Dr. Katie Flynn, Staff Veterinarian Equine Programs  
Mr. Lee Harrison, Agricultural Program Supervisor, EMMP  
Ms. Nancy Ragen, Management Services Technician, EMMP  
Mr. Rob Peterson, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology

**Others in Attendance:**

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

**(3) Review of Minutes**

Minutes of the April 10, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

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

#### **(4) 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. Dr. Knych provided an overview of Cannabidiol (CBD), the proposed research project and the approval process for the cannabidiol research at UC Davis. The DEA Schedule I Approval for research has been obtained and the order for the CBD has been processed. Field research study is due to begin in the new year. Dr. Knych continued with an overview of bisphosphonates, their clinical use in horses, and the proposed research aims for a bisphosphonate research project. Dr. Knych discussed the experimental design which includes sample collections for drug concentration analysis, transcriptomics (gene biomarkers) and protein biomarkers as well as radiographs and PET imaging. This project will be commencing in the new year.

Lastly, Dr. Knych notified the members that the hydroxyzine and cetirizine EMMP funded research project has been published in the June 27, 2019 issue of the Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

#### **(5) IT Update**

Mr. Rob Peterson from the office of Information Technology (IT) came and gave an update on the EMMP IT projects. He discussed how IT worked with some contractors and got a functioning version of the iPad app working. There are a couple of minor defects associated with the newest version of the iPad being used. Dr. Flynn reiterated that the EMMP program did not have to pay for the fixes done to the app or the new iPad mini 5. The IT staff went out in the field with Ms. Katie Hatch to better understand how the program works and to improve functionality. The plan is to start rolling out the new iPad app to testers in January 2020.

The EMMP online database was also updated to improve the existing reports and to add new reports. In addition, EMMP staff can now add records of sample collection via the online database. The committee was very appreciative for IT's help and determination in getting the iPad app up and running as well as the improvements to the online database.

#### **(6) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Update**

Dr. Stephen Schumacher gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). In July 2019, USEF transferred testing of their horse show samples to the University of Kentucky Department of Agriculture Equine Analytical Laboratory instead of a private lab run by USEF. Dr. Flynn recently

met with Dr. Scott Stanley who took over as director of the University of Kentucky laboratory.

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 has been reviewing the MPA disclosure forms that have been required since September 2017. During the summer of 2019, there were at least two equine deaths related to MPA use on competition grounds. Both deaths were due to anaphylactic reactions after MPA was administered. Now that there is the data from all of 2018 and the summer of 2019, the goal of the MPA panel is to put together a recommendation to the USEF board. MPA is not able to be regulated by EMMP due to the fact that it doesn't yet fall under the drug categories included in the California Food and Agriculture Code or California Code of Regulations.

There are three rule change proposals going forward to the USEF annual meeting. The first change 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. The second rule change is that the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) prohibits horses who have a temporary or permanent tracheotomy to compete so USEF is going to be adopting this rule as well. The third rule is that FEI has recently banned six bisphosphonates so USEF will be requiring 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). All other bisphosphonates will be considered prohibited substances under USEF.

USEF made an announcement recently regarding cannabidiol (CBD) products that they have always been a prohibited substance and will continue to be prohibited under FEI and USEF. However, USEF is not yet taking action against positive tests for CBD as they need to do more research on CBD levels, its effects and detection times.

## **(7) Program Updates**

### **Administrative Updates**

Dr. Katie Flynn discussed the current personnel situation for EMMP. EMMP currently has thirteen testers and six veterinarians. This year 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 is still on medical leave so one of the Sacramento county testers was promoted to a crew chief position.

### **Program Data Summary**

Dr. Flynn presented the following program summary data for the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

- A total of 1,158 events were held (approximately the same as previous two fiscal years)
- 329 events were tested
- A total of 616 urine samples and 600 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.

### **Financial Update**

For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, EMMP had a total revenue of \$490,156.52 which is the lowest revenue of the past five fiscal years. There are currently sixty-nine events that have not paid their show fees. The total expenses for the 2018-2019 fiscal year for EMMP were \$994,855.29 which left EMMP with a deficit of \$504,698.77 which dropped the EMMP reserve down to \$602,199.91. This is why the fee increase proposal for the show fee per horse to go from \$5 to \$8 is so important. Currently this fee increase proposal is at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for approval who has thirty days to provide comment (deadline 10/24/19). If approved, it will be filed with the secretary of state for an effective date of January 1, 2020. Once OAL has approved it, EMMP can start notifying the industry of the change. In addition to the advisory committee members notifying their organizations, EMMP will also put notes or articles in Horse Trader, Horseman's News, Horse Show Times, Pacific Coast Journal and Ride Magazines.

Dr. Katie Flynn discussed the proposed spending plan for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The proposed spending plan totaled \$1,194,403.59.

**MOTION #2:** Mr. Robert Gage motioned to approve the proposed spending plan for FY 2020-2021 with the caveat that EMMP will try to save money wherever possible. Ms. Nancy Harvey seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

### **Regulation Update**

Dr. Katie Flynn discussed a regulation change for the branch regarding the informal hearing process. Changes include who can request an informal hearing, what violations have the option for an informal hearing, timelines for notification of informal hearing details, document submission to the hearing officer and the decision for the informal hearing shall be issued within 30 days (instead of current 14 days) after the conclusion of the hearing. The comment period for these regulation changes concludes on October 15, 2019.

Dr. Flynn also discussed the other regulations that the advisory committee had wished to put forward regarding increasing responsibilities of the event manager, clarifying exhibitor or designated party responsibilities, authority of the program

veterinarian to authorize sample collection of a designated equine and cleaning up language regarding permissible substances in regulations to match recent code changes. These regulation changes are currently on hold until there are more code changes put forward.

### **Legal Update**

Recently the legal department provided an informal hearing guide to help explain the process to appellants. EMMP has had three informal hearings so far, one of which was paid and closed for an acepromazine violation, one decision was recently issued for a romifidine case and has not been paid yet and the third hearing was just recently held so no decision has been issued yet. There is one upcoming informal hearing as well.

This year, the legal department added a form that is sent out with the Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) and Notice of Violation (NOV) for each case. This new form allows the appellant to either pay the fine, request an informal hearing or enter a stipulated agreement with the legal department. The committee discussed how they did not want every case to be able to be settled for a lower fine and therefore would like restrictions on what should be allowed to be settled by legal. The committee is planning on writing a letter to the legal department to reiterate the fact that the fines are the amount they are in order to deter people from drugging their horses and a lower fine would do less to deter people.

**MOTION #3:** Dr. Mike Tomlinson motioned to write a letter to the legal department that the advisory committee authorizes EMMP to enter into a stipulated agreement for cases at the discretion of the EMMP where it is deemed appropriate. The committee believes strongly that the deterrence of the full fine put forth is necessary in most cases and should be adhered to. Mr. Robert Gage seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Flynn also discussed the current challenges with the legal department. Due to various reasons, legal has required EMMP to drop five different cases. They attempted to drop two additional cases, but EMMP pursued the first case in an informal hearing and the case was ruled in their favor. For the second case, Dr. Flynn will be representing EMMP instead of the legal department as legal would not agree to defend the program in this hearing. Legal then entered into a stipulation agreement with the appellant for this case without EMMP's knowledge or approval. Dr. Stephen Schumacher and Dr. Jeanette Mero both gave examples from their organizations of how they have had legal issues pursuing cases. Dr. Kent Fowler suggested that the committee should provide written communication to the legal department stating that if there is a minor issue, rather than an egregious violation of protocols, that the case should continue on to an informal hearing instead of being dropped or entered into a stipulated settlement.

## **(8) Animal Health Updates**

Dr. Katie Flynn presented California's animal health updates on the following topics: West Nile Virus (WNV), Equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1), Vesicular Stomatitis (VS), Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) and the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC).

Dr. Flynn discussed the 2019 equine WNV cases so far. There has been a total of fourteen (14) cases confirmed so far in 2019. Eight (8) of the affected horses were not vaccinated against WNV and six (6) had an unknown vaccine history. Three (3) of the WNV positive horses were euthanized and the other eleven (11) are alive and recovering. The age range of the infected horses was one (1) to twelve (12) years with an average age of 4.4 years.

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there was one Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) incident. On October 3, 2019, a 20-year-old quarter horse gelding in Shasta county displaying neurologic signs was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1). The positive horse was quarantined and isolated, however, an additional horse on the property became febrile and was confirmed positive for EHV-1. A horse on a separate premise in Shasta county, who trailered with the index horse to an event, also became febrile and was confirmed positive for EHV-1. A fourth horse displaying a fever in Sonoma County also tested positive by a private laboratory for Equine Herpesvirus-1. This horse also participated in the same event as the other positive horses.

Ms. Katie Hatch and Dr. Katie Flynn recently worked with Dr. Nicola Pusterla at UC Davis on a paper regarding the genotype of equine herpesvirus-1 and whether or not it influenced clinical disease and outcome of horses with EHM. The paper concluded that the severity of clinical signs and outcome of the cases did not differ significantly based on EHV-1 strain. Urinary incontinence was the only clinical sign that was reported more frequently with the neuropathogenic strain.

Dr. Kent Fowler discussed the recent Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) outbreak in the United States. It started on June 21, 2019 in Kinney County, Texas and has so far affected seven states (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and Wyoming). There have been over 1,100 affected premises with eleven of those being bovine premises, one with both bovine and equines and the rest of the premises with only equines. This is the largest outbreak of VS ever recorded in the US and it is likely to continue throughout the fall as there will be a transition in the vector population. All cases have been affected with the Indiana strain which is the first time this strain of VS has been seen in the US since 1989.

Dr. Fowler gave an update on the Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) incident that started in May 2018. There were 471 infected premises in Los Angeles,

Riverside and San Bernardino county with an isolated case in Alameda county, Ventura county, Utah state and Arizona state. Over 8,000 premises were quarantined, 1.25 million birds were euthanized and over 207,000 premises were visited doing census work. The last positive was September 4, 2019 and the current plan is to release control areas and then do testing to declare California free of VND. Hopefully this will wrap up in January 2020.

Dr. Fowler also mentioned that the CAHFS laboratory in Turlock is going to be expanding which will allow that lab to be able to perform equine necropsies at that facility along with housing the Modesto district CDFA staff.

Dr. Flynn gave an update on the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC). Nationwide in September 2019, there were 41 cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis, eight cases of Equine Infectious Anemia, one case of equine influenza, three cases of strangles, 39 new premises of Vesicular Stomatitis and fifteen cases of West Nile Virus reported to EDCC.

#### **(9) Committee New Business Discussion**

No new items were discussed. The next meeting is tentatively planned for Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 10am-3pm at the CDFA Gateway Oaks office in Sacramento. The committee would like a demonstration of how the EMMP iPad application works at the next meeting.

#### **(10) Closing Comments**

Ms. Rae Stambuk motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bob Gage seconded the motion. Vice chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 2:48pm.