

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
September 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 10:04am by Chairperson Sandy Arledge.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

Ms. Sandy Arledge, Chair, California Farm Bureau Federation
Ms. Jody Cutler, American Driving Society
Dr. Marta Grandstedt, California Veterinary Medical Association
Ms. Cathy Hanson, Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Association
Ms. Nancy Harvey, Arabian Horse Association
Dr. Jeanette Mero, American Endurance Ride Conference
Ms. Kalia Mitchell, California Fairs and Expositions
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:

Mr. Robert Gage, California State Horsemen's Association
Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, California Draft Horse & Mule Association
Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.
Ms. Mari Naten, California Dressage Society
Ms. Sarah Rajoy, California Professional Horsemen's Association

CDFA Present:

Dr. Kent Fowler, Chief, Animal Health Branch
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
Ms. Linda Fong, Staff Services Manager, Animal Health Branch
Ms. Kimberly McCarthy, Staff Services Manager, Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division

Others in Attendance:

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

(3) Review of Minutes

Minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION #1: Dr. Mike Tomlinson motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Christine Oswald 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 discussed the bisphosphonate research project, which will be studying Osphos. The labeled indication for Osphos is to treat navicular but there are lots of extra label uses for it as well. The study includes sample collections for drug concentration analysis, transcriptomics (gene biomarkers) and protein biomarkers. This is a joint project with multiple groups, including the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) and the Grayson-Jockey Club Foundation. The administration portion of the study is due to begin in October 2020.

Dr. Knych also provided an overview of the Cannabidiol (CBD) project. Not many scientific studies have been performed yet on the effects of CBD due to the extensive approval process for studies. However, some claimed anecdotal effects are analgesia, anti-inflammatory, treatment for anxiety and depression, alleviating side effects of chemotherapy, use as a neuroprotectant, anti-tumor treatment and diabetes prevention. Dr. Knych's study showed the drug concentration in blood increased with the dose given and that it was hard to detect the CBD at 72 hours post-administration, though it could be found in some horses in the study. The maximum concentration was approximately 3 hours post-administration for the parent drug CBD. The two primary metabolites for CBD are 7-OH CBD and 7-COOH CBD. 7-COOH CBD is the primary metabolite of CBD and is still well above the limit of quantitation at 72 hours post-administration. 7-OH CBD was only detectable for approximately 30 hours post-administration. It does not appear that CBD has an effect on the arachidonic acid inflammatory mediators at the doses studied. There are many different avenues forward with this research as so little has been studied so far on the effects of CBD, especially in equines.

(5) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Update

Dr. Stephen Schumacher gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). Dr. Schumacher discussed the effect that the COVID-19 pandemic had on equine events. Events were not being held from mid-March

through mid-May and there were only approximately 50-60% of the usual number of horses being competed for the year due to the shutdown. All competitors and drug testers have been required to wear masks at events.

USEF recently voted to make all bisphosphonates prohibited substances except for tildronate (Tildren) and clodronate (Osphos). 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. This rule goes into effect December 1, 2020.

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 ciclesonide which is a newly approved corticosteroid medication, for use in horses with lower airway issues. As it is a new medication, it is unknown what the regulatory concerns are, so USEF will be reviewing the medication to see if it will be a prohibited substance or whether it will be permissible for horses with a therapeutic use exemption.

USEF is also in the midst of developing an electronic data capture format for testing, similar to the EMMP application developed. They are hoping it will be developed and implemented within the next year or so.

(6) Animal Health Updates

Equine Diseases

Dr. Emily Nietrzeba presented California's animal health updates on the following topics: Equine herpesvirus (EHV), West Nile Virus (WNV), and Vesicular Stomatitis (VS).

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there were four Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) incidents. The first was an incident in Alameda county in March 2020 when a 14-year-old Pony mare became neurologic, was sent to an outside veterinary hospital for treatment and confirmed positive for Equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1). Forty-four (44) horses on the home premise were quarantined, there were seven (7) additional febrile only cases and the quarantine was released after fifty-seven (57) days. There was a limited supply of disinfectants and personal protective equipment (PPE) due to the COVID-19 pandemic which likely prolonged the incident. The second incident

was in Sonoma County in April 2020 when a 10-year-old Warmblood mare displayed neurologic signs, was sent to an outside veterinary hospital for treatment and confirmed positive for EHV-1. The home premise of forty-eight (48) exposed horses were quarantined, there were no additional cases and quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days. The third incident was in Imperial county in August 2020 when a one-year-old Quarter Horse filly was euthanized due to severe neurologic signs and was confirmed positive for Equine herpesvirus-4 (EHV-4). Three (3) horses on the home premise were quarantined and one additional horse became febrile and tested positive for EHV-4. The quarantine was released after twenty-three (23) days. The fourth incident was in El Dorado county in August 2020. A 17-year-old Thoroughbred gelding with fever and neurologic signs was euthanized and confirmed positive for EHV-1. The home premise had ten (10) additional horses put under quarantine and there were no additional cases, so quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days.

Dr. Nietrzeba discussed the 2020 equine WNV cases. So far, there have been a total of eleven (11) cases confirmed in 2020. Seven (7) of the affected horses were not vaccinated against WNV and four (4) had an unknown vaccine history. Three (3) of the WNV positive horses died or were euthanized and the other eight (8) are alive and recovering. The age range of the infected horses was one (1) to twenty (20) years with an average age of 7.6 years. The counties in which the affected horses reside are Amador, Butte, Glenn, Merced, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

Dr. Nietrzeba discussed the recent Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) outbreak in the United States. It started on April 13, 2020 in New Mexico and affected eight states (New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas). There was a mix of strain types during this outbreak, with both the Indiana and New Jersey strains detected. Kansas and Missouri still have premises under quarantine, but the other six states have been released. So far there have been 323 affected premises (202 confirmed and 121 suspect) with 310 being equine only premises, 12 being cattle only premises and one having both cattle and equine on the premises. California has movement restrictions for animals coming from affected states, in which animals had to have a certificate of veterinary inspection written within seven (7) days of entry instead of the usual thirty (30) days.

(7) Program Updates

Administrative Updates

Ms. Katie Hatch discussed the current personnel situation for EMMP. EMMP still has twelve testers and six veterinarians. EMMP welcomes Dr. Emily Nietrzeba as the new staff veterinarian for equine programs. Dr. Kent Fowler will be retiring at the end of the 2020 calendar year.

Program Data Summary

Ms. Katie Hatch presented the following program summary data for the 2019-2020 fiscal year:

- A total of 738 events were held (significantly less than previous years due to COVID-19).
- 200 events were tested by EMMP.
- 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.
- A total of 271 urine samples and 527 blood samples were collected from selected horses at EMMP registered events.

Legal Update

Dr. Emily Nierzaba discussed the regulation packet that is currently in the process of approval for EMMP. It is revising the regulations so that way if the program's forms have minor revisions, they can be changed without having to go through a regulation change each time. However, if there are substantial changes to the form, it will still have to go through a regulation change.

Financial Update

Dr. Kent Fowler reviewed the six-year revenue and expenditures for EMMP. The revenue for the 2019-2020 fiscal year (FY) was significantly impacted due to events canceled because of COVID-19. Expenditures were also high this year, though slightly reduced as the Animal Health Branch paid for 100% of Dr. Katie Flynn's and Katie Hatch's salary for the 2019-2020 FY. EMMP has been running in deficit spending for the past five years. As of July 1, 2015, the program's financial reserve balance was at \$1,823,730 and as of June 30, 2020, the balance was at \$10,201. The projection for the 2020-2021 FY was that EMMP would still be at a financial loss which would put the program into a negative reserve balance status. Dr. Fowler also discussed that the laboratory testing fees are likely to increase in 2022 as well.

Possible ideas to reduce expenditures included only collecting and testing urine samples for the 2020-2021 FY, reducing travel distance for testers to events, prioritizing larger shows, limiting the number of hours testers spend at events, testing 25% of shows instead of the previous 40% goal, and holding off on CAHFS performing any more research for the 2020-2021 FY.

The committee also agreed that an increase in revenue is needed in order for the program to continue. The committee discussed increasing the testing fees from \$8 to \$10, \$12, \$14 or \$15. Decision factors included industry impacts, desire to not have to do another increase in the near future, the time it takes for regulations to go through, and that the committee would like to see EMMP continue.

MOTION #2: Dr. Mike Tomlinson motioned to increase the testing fee from \$8 to \$14 to be effective January 1, 2022. Dr. Chris Smith seconded the motion.

Yes: Ms. Sandy Arledge, Dr. Marta Grandstedt, Ms. Nancy Harvey, Dr. Jeanette Mero, Ms. Kalia Mitchell, Dr. Russell Peterson, Mr. William Pettis, Dr. Chris Smith, Ms. Rae Stambuk, Dr. Mike Tomlinson

No: None

Abstain: Ms. Christine Oswald

The committee would like to postpone decisions on reducing expenditures until there is more data analysis done on the cost of urine vs. blood sampling.

(8) Committee New Business Discussion

No new items were discussed. The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 6, 2020 from 9-10am to be held via Zoom.

(9) Closing Comments

Chairperson Ms. Sandy Arledge adjourned the meeting at 12:36pm.