



The Horsemen's Newsletter

June 2014

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MRC Begins Cobalt Testing

In an effort to address the rumored use of cobalt salts in racing and to assist current national and international research to determine the level at which such use could affect the performance of a horse, the Maryland Racing Commission unanimously voted in May to begin testing for these levels, effective immediately.

New York and California recently enacted similar efforts and the Meadowlands harness track banned two trainers in January for using massive amounts of the substance, which were detected in post-race testing.

Cobalt is a natural occurring element that can be found in humans and horses in the form of vitamin B-12. When given in excessive amounts, it is thought to improve endurance by spurring the production of oxygen-carrying red blood cells, a result similar to EPO. Some researchers believe that excessive administration has the potential to be toxic for horses, leading to cardiovascular issues, nerve problems, thickening of the blood and thyroid toxicity.

Cobalt isn't listed in the 15 pages of drugs published by the Association of Racing Commissioners International in its "Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances," and Maryland currently has no specific rules regarding allowable cobalt levels. The challenge for all sports, including racing, is determining the baseline at which the element naturally occurs. The action taken by Commission will assist in that effort. Truesdail Laboratories, the Commission's new testing laboratory, has been doing extensive research with cobalt for the past several years. Since there are currently no established testing thresholds for cobalt in North American racing, it is expected that the Commission will investigate test results that show the presence of excessive amounts of cobalt.

Funding Now Available For Non-Accredited Aftercare Facilities

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (MTHA) Board of Directors has approved the application process for grants for non-sanctioned Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) programs in the state.

The applications are available online for interested facilities at the MTHA website, www.mdhorsemen.com

"We realize there are farms in the area that are not [sanctioned by] TAA yet," said Chris Bricker, MTHA board member and coordinator for the project. "To be sanctioned by TAA, programs have to have the 501 (c) tax designation for three years. We have a number of farms that don't qualify yet, but they are farms that are doing good work."

"Our goal is to get all our farms accredited by the TAA program. We like TAA because they do the accreditation. But we want to support our local programs that are not presently qualified."

Bricker said a deadline has been set for October 1.

Last fall the MTHA became a leader in the effort to care for retired Thoroughbreds when its board voted

to work with the TAA program that was

in just its second year. Maryland donates 50 percent of the funds its members raised for aftercare to TAA, while keeping the other 50 percent for Maryland farms that don't meet the TAA criteria.

The unique thing about the TAA-Maryland agreement is Maryland monies donated to the TAA are to be earmarked specifically for horses who have run in Maryland and the retirement farms receiving the Maryland money must also be in Maryland.

TAA executive director James Hastie complimented Maryland on its decision to hold money back for non-sanctioned facilities in the state.

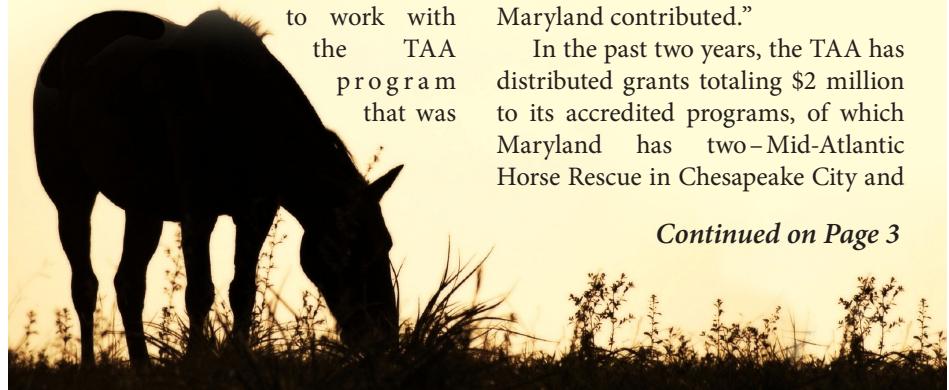
"I think it was a pretty wise decision to keep some funding to support its own organizations, which have not yet gone through our accreditation process," Hastie said. "We only offer our grants to our accredited members."

He also said the Maryland agreement, put together by his predecessor, Mike Ziegler, may well remain unique in the Alliance.

"Already Maryland's sanctioned farms have received two to three times more money than the \$23,000 Maryland contributed."

In the past two years, the TAA has distributed grants totaling \$2 million to its accredited programs, of which Maryland has two—Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue in Chesapeake City and

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In Memoriam

Louis Edward

“Scotty” Scott, a retired rider and Thoroughbred trainer, died May 3 of heart disease at Sinai Hospital. He was 92 and lived in Pikesville.



Born in Sparks, he was the son of Edward Scott, a horse trainer, and the former Cordelia Whye.

He began riding at the age of 12 and rode in Maryland in the 1940s.

He was an exercise rider for John Bosley Sr., who owned the Foxhall Keene Farm in Monkton in the early 1950s.

“Scotty was the best of friends with Herman Lacy, known as “Hard Times,” a fellow jockey and trainer,” said longtime friend J.B. Secor of Monkton. “Scotty galloped some of the best horses in the country. He worked for the great trainers, Henry Clark, Bernie Bond and Bowes Bond. He also took a lot of younger men under his wing and showed them the ropes. He will be remembered as being from the old school.”



A familiar face to those on the Laurel Park backstretch, Robert “Bob” Keefe, passed away on Kentucky Derby Day, Saturday May 3 at the age of 84.

The father of trainer Tim Keefe, Bob was a Thoroughbred owner and known around the racetrack as a “true class act”.

Mr. Keefe maintained a vegetable and flower garden outside of barn 8.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to one of the following organizations: The Maryland Horseman’s Assistance Fund, 500 Redland Court, Ste. 105, Owings Mills, MD 21117 or The Fund for Johns Hopkins Medicine, 750 East Pratt Street, 17th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

MTHA Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2014 - 5PM
Laurel Park Director’s Room



Recreation Report

Poker Tournament

The MTHA will sponsor its next Mock Poker Tournament at Bowie on Monday, July 14 at noon. Sign-up sheets are in the track kitchens.

Bowling

The next MTHA Bowling Tournament is being planned for Monday, June 2 at the Columbia Bowling Lanes.

Softball Games

We are still putting together a softball game schedule. If interested, please call Dan Mangum at 410-802-5798.

Baseball Tickets

Bowie Baysox tickets are still being distributed to those who sign-up in the Track Kitchens. Please see the flyers to see times and dates for each location.

The winners of the second Orioles Ticket Package were: David Taylor (May 9th vs Houston), Chris Michael (May 14th vs Detroit), Eugene Gumbs (May 22nd vs Cleveland), Jaime Patterson (May 24th vs Cleveland) and Johnny Poe (June 7th vs Oakland).

The next drawing will be held at Bowie on Saturday, June 7 at approximately 10:00 a.m. Sign-up at the track kitchens. Value of package is \$150.



Summer Schedule

MTHA Racetrack Office

The MTHA office at Laurel will be open Mondays through Fridays; 9 a.m. to noon.

Racing Commission

The Maryland Racing Commission office is closed during the break in live racing. Contact the Commission’s main office at (410) 296-9682 or (410) 296-9683.

Horsemen’s Bookkeeper

The Horsemen’s Bookkeeper’s office will be open at Laurel Park Mondays - Fridays; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Training

Bowie, Pimlico and Laurel Park— Monday - Saturday; 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Gate Schooling

Bowie, Pimlico and Laurel Park— Wednesday - Saturday; 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Stall Issues

Bowie—Contact Jerry Burdick (301) 802-9440, Laurel & Pimlico— Contact Charlie Hall (301) 674-5108.

Race Track Issues

Contact David Whitman (443) 250-9870.

Stable Area Issues

Bowie—Contact Victor (Blue) Marshall (240) 876-6414, Laurel and Pimlico— Contact Tony Edwards (443) 250-9872.

Backstretch Health Center

Doc Harris will see patients on Tuesdays at Pimlico and on Saturdays at Laurel Park from 9 a.m. to noon both days.

The backstretch health center is free of charge for backstretch workers and their families. No appointment is necessary.

Racing Office

The Laurel Park Racing Office will be open Monday - Friday; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Jocks Room

The Jock’s Room at Laurel Park will be CLOSED for the summer. Horsemen must pick up your silks and foal papers before the end of the Pimlico meet.

Continued from cover...

Thoroughbred Placement Resources in Upper Marlboro.

Beverly Strauss, who runs the Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue farm, said she received a surprise visit from Hastie recently when he visited the state. When a farm applies to become a member of TAA, it has to agree to surprise review visits from the Alliance.

"I'd definitely recommend joining TAA," Strauss said. "It adds a sense of legitimacy and those who donate to our farm have a greater sense of security, knowing their money is going to a business that has been vetted. There are people out there running scams

and you want to see money donated to help horses do good, not just be thrown away. I do think [TAA] is a great thing."

Strauss said that while Thoroughbred aftercare is a pressing issue, "You have to be methodical and follow the path that makes sure businesses are reputable for the horses and the donors.

"We're thrilled Maryland has stepped up to partner with TAA. It's already been a huge benefit to me and I'm proud that my state is doing something. Maryland could be such a shining example for the industry across the country—and it should be given its [horse racing] history."

New Modifications To Therapeutic Medication List Approved

The Maryland Racing Commission has moved to adopt new modifications to the Controlled Therapeutic Substances List recently approved by the Association of Racing Commissioners International recommended by the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium. Two new medications, albuterol and isoflupredone (Predef), have been added to the list of 24 drugs that are approved for therapeutic use in racing together and a new withdrawal time for flunixin(Banamine®) has been established.

The withdrawal time for Albuterol, a bronchodilator that can be used as an alternative to the more strictly regulated clenbuterol, has been set at 72 hours prior to a race. Both Albuterol and clenbuterol clear airways, but whereas clenbuterol can be administered orally or intravenously, albuterol can only be administered in an aerosolized form, using a breathing mask. Clenbuterol's withdrawal time is 14 days.

RMTC's official recommendation states that the current withdrawal time of flunixin should be increased from 24 hours to 32 hours (based on a single IV dose of 1 milligram per kilogram). Flunixin is a non-steroidal anti-inflammato-



ry drug (NSAID) and is recommended for the alleviation of inflammation and pain associated with musculoskeletal disorders.

The corticosteroid isoflupredone was added because of its efficacy in treating high-suspensory injuries, a type of malady that could not be effectively treated with any other drug on the approved list.

The RMTC has been pushing to more tightly regulate the use of corticosteroids because of concerns over the ability of these drugs to mask problems if used close to a race and because chronic use of long-term damage in joints. The recommended withdrawal-time guideline on isoflupredone will be seven days.

Concluding after recent research that the current withdrawal time for flunixin (Banamine®) could leave horsemen vulnerable to positive tests, the RMTC recommended extending the time by an additional eight hours to 32 hours.

The new flunixin withdrawal is recommended to horsemen and veterinarians immediately. The addition of albuterol and isoflupredone to the Maryland Racing Medication Guidelines will become effective with the opening of the Laurel Park fall meet.



Excellent Turnout For MTHA Golf Tournament at Walden Golf Club

Enjoying a day on the green, 52 golfers shared a few laughs, a few tips and a bit of competitiveness while teeing off at Walden Country Club in the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association annual Golf Tournament on Monday, April 28.

The MTHA scramble tournament was won by the team consisting of Ken and Kate Cox and J.D. Brown (\$250). Second place was Ed Prysbyla, Alfonso Griffith, K. Nelson & Chris Michael (\$150), third place was Wayne Potts, Marty Leonard, Erik Fowlner and Corey Jensen (\$100).

Closest to the pins were won by Erik Fowlner and Chris Michael (\$50).

In addition to a great day of golf, food and camaraderie, additional prizes were handed out to the following:

Winner of the Oriole Ticket Drawing: Bob Stouffer. Winner of the Baysox Ticket Drawing: Jim Martino.

The next golf outing will be held on Monday, September 22, 2014.

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MTHA

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Two Booklets Available To Horsemen



Stop by the Racing Office or the MTHA's Racetrack office and pick up the Horsemen's Services Guidebook and the New Maryland Medication Guidelines Booklet or call 410-902-6842 for a copy.