



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

**Best Practices at the Test Barn:
Chain of Custody and Operating Efficiency**

MODERATOR:

Steve Koch: Executive Director, NTRA Safety & Integrity Alliance

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Dionne Benson: Executive Director and COO, Racing Medication and Testing Consortium

Dr. Ron Jensen: Primary Veterinarian and Regulatory Consultant, NTRA Safety & Integrity Alliance

Ms. Liz Bracken: All right.

We'll get going on our last panel.

Very glad to have Steve Koch back.

Pretty soon we're gonna hafta put him on the payroll if we keep using him on all these panels.

[Chuckle]

Very important topic, Best Practices in the Test Barn and important to our overall integrity as a sport. We're glad to have him back and our two distinguished panelists.

This is sponsored by the Racing Officials Accreditation Program which makes sense. Please join us at 5:00 to 6:00 for our La Vida Local right outside.

We'll have some really nice stuff for you. I'll give it over to Steve Koch, Executive Director of the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance.

[Applause]

Mr. Steve Koch: All right.

Thanks for havin' me back onstage to listen to our panel regarding the test barn.

It's a real opportunity to be allowed to come back on the stage to reinforce our message at the NTRA regarding the Safety and Integrity Alliance.

Then actually even more important than that today we're gonna discuss what it means to assemble an effective test barn and test barn program that delivers true value for your testing dollar.

I'm gonna open with a pretty quick status review of the Safety and Integrity Alliance, how it's makin' a positive impact on horseracing.

Then I'm quickly going to get to an actual announcement and explanation of our latest update to the Code of Safety and Integrity Standards that is itself relevant to test barn procedures that are of interest to us today.

Today the Safety and Integrity Alliance we have 24 accredited racetracks across North America.

These racetracks are really achieving some excellent results as they operate to the Code of Safety and Integrity Standards in the industry.

Our accredited racetracks account for 74 percent of wagering in North America, 90 percent of graded stakes, 96 percent of Grade I stakes.

There is a question that continually vexes us.

With the obvious successes that we're seeing through accreditation process at racetracks we ask how do we persuade the more hesitant operators to join us?

How do we, that is, ensure that 100 percent of racetracks are indeed operating to the industry-constructed code of standards?

I wanted to use this opportunity to make mention of something we're experiencing in 2016.

It'll come together in 2017.

That is the West Virginia Racing Commission called on its racetracks in West Virginia to join the Safety and Integrity Alliance.

I think the West Virginia stakeholders are already discovering that the alliance is here as a helpful service to evaluate existing operations.

We're really lookin' forward to a very positive successful working relationship with the West Virginia racetracks and those stakeholders.

What I'm encouraging today is to pay attention to what's going on in West Virginia.

Watch this process unfold. If you think it's something that you can work in your own jurisdiction call on me, and we can talk about ways to get this in motion.

A critical component of the Safety and Integrity Alliance is that we annually update our code of standards.

It's by this method that we ensure that the participating racetracks are remaining current with industry best practices and that operational improvement is a continuous cycle at those racetracks.

The annual updates to our code of standards are based upon through the year we collect submissions from individuals, industry stakeholders.

It's very heavily influenced by the RCI model rules process.

Then what happens is that updated code of standards or the proposals for the code of standards updates must be taken to the Safety and Integrity Alliance advisory board.

That advisory board is designed to represent a cross section of industry stakeholders.

There's a representative on that board, the RMTC is on that board.

Of course there's an NTRA representative, Jockey Club.

Veterinarians represented through the AAEP.

Horsemen represented through such things as the HBPA and the THA. Jockeys represented through the Jockey's Guild, and so forth.

The point is by annually updating that code of standards, and then we very strictly adhere to that every two-year re-accreditation cycle for participating racetracks, we can ensure that those tracks are continuously improving their operations so that the best practices we're seeing today over time become industry standards.

The idea is continuous improvement across the racing industry.

Now, the code of standards that accredited racetracks must satisfy is it covers six broad areas listed up here.

There's no need to walk all the way through that document today, but it is a public document.

It's on our website, NTRAalliance.com.

Anyone that's never downloaded that document and taken a look through it, the things we call for from a racetrack, it's worth your while to read that.

There's a lot to be gained there, and I urge you to do so. It is available on our website any time.

We will be in the coming weeks communicating several updates to the code of standards for 2017.

For example in Section 3 the Medication and Testing section we've actually already announced that we've actually put an actual, a deadline, in the code of standards. Participating racetracks must have fully achieved all four pillars of the RMTTC's National Uniform Medication Program.

That deadline's January 1, 2019. This is somethin' that we've already talked about in the industry. That's not new news.

In Section 4 we're going to make some updates to Jockey Weighing Procedures.

In Section 6 for 2017 there's an extensive re-write of the Wagering Security section in order to make that section evolve along with the evolving TRA tote protocols.

The section that's of particular interest to us today is back there in Section 3, Medication and Testing, subsection I.2.

That regards test barn and sample chain of custody procedures which is why we're here to day for this panel.

Up to now the code of standards has provided relatively light guidance in the way of recommendations, best practices for operations at the test barn.

For 2017 we've newly installed a reference in the code of standards to an Exhibit 6. Exhibit 6 will be titled Test Barn Chain of Custody and Procedures, Considerations and Recommendations.

We will be releasing this new publication to the industry concurrent with this panel today.

This material that has become Exhibit 6 of our code of standards it is a joint exercise between the Safety and Integrity Alliance and the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium.

The document has been adopted by the RMTC board.

It's been adopted by the Alliance's advisory board.

It will dually reside on the RMTC website and the NTRA Alliance website.

I do have a few hard copies of the publication.

If you're interested afterwards we'll hand those out hopefully until they run out.

It's very important for me to point out in the preamble of this document we've been very careful to explicitly to clarify that this is a best practices document.

It is not a one-size-fits-all solution.

The local regulatory authority, the stakeholders in your jurisdiction, when you're lookin' at your test barn operations you're gonna wanna assure that your adopted procedures are relevant to your local rules and that they have considered your own facility's specific needs.

I'd be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to continue with my moment on the stage here to point out the Alliance and the RMTC are here to help.

We are a service to the industry.

We're continuously providing some pretty effective advocacy resources, not just with the 24 accredited racetracks, but at numerous racetracks that are working towards the code of standards.

We're frequently interfacing with various racing commissions, local stakeholders, horsemen's group, lawmakers, and so on, with the intent to educate about the industry's safety and integrity standards.

We really do help reinforce steps to achieving those national standards.

We have access to expert resources.

We can offer advice.

In this instance we can offer advice on the setup, design and execution for your local testing program and test barn operating arrangements.

I would just urge racing commissions and racetrack operators to call on us any time.

We are there to be at your service, and we want to help you in this case maximize your value from your test barn and testing programs.

What I'm gonna do next we're gonna turn the podium over to Dr. Benson from the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium.

She is going to take us on a tour of the best practices, some of the best practices proposed in this document that we're going to release this afternoon.

Then on top of that we've brought in Dr. Jensen to add some color commentary to the exercise.

Dr. Jensen for those who don't know him has got 50 years in this business.

He spent a total of 42 years between Equine Medical Director for the California Horseracing Board and as a regulatory veterinarian in Illinois.

Most recently since 2009 he's been our go-to resource as a Veterinary and Regulatory Consultant for the Safety and Integrity Alliance.

Dr. Jensen actually has seen it all,

[chuckle]

and we will benefit from his wisdom.

Then for my part I'm actually really quite proud to be onboard at the Safety and Integrity Alliance.

It's a very rewarding task to know that daily we are providing a positive change. We are a positive-change agent for this industry.

I thank all of you for sharing your time with me today allowing me this opportunity to spread our important message from the RMTTC and the Safety and Integrity Alliance.

Then so with that I'm going to turn the stage over to Dr. Benson.

Dr. Dionne Benson: Thank you.

Hello.

I know you guys have had a very long week.

This is the end of a very long week, and this is not necessarily the most exciting information and topic to be dealing with at the end of the week, but I promise you it matters.

It makes a difference.

When we started this test barn practices guide I think that Steve and I were on the phone in mid-July.

I said you know what we really need?

We need some guidance for the test barns.

I've been to a number of test barns and all of 'em do many things very well.

All of 'em have places where at least as an outsider I would say they could do better.

Again, not necessarily meaning that they're failing chain of custody.

Well, I think Steve anticipated this would be a couple-page document.

Its 28 pages,

[chuckle]

so I think it's very thorough.

You'll see probably just about every scenario, every issue that we could think of brought up in this.

I think you'll find it very useful for commissions and racetrack operators.

Again, as Steve indicated it's a best practices document.

It's not one-size-fits-all mandate for defensible testing or chain of custody.

Hopefully, the regulators will see it as a tool when they're reviewing their test barn policies and practices.

We also hope that the tracks will use it as a guide to ensure they're considering test barn — to consider when they're looking at test barn maintenance and setup.

Sorry, I've had a cold for a couple of weeks.

I'm gonna touch on nine general areas.

I promise I don't have ten slides on each of these nine areas.

This kinda gives you and walks you through the entire document, each section in the document and allows you to get an idea of what we were thinking of and what kind of issues we were seeing.

The first issue is truly the horse.

We looked at horses and horse sampling for post-race sampling, out of competition, TCO₂ or total carbon dioxide, injured horses, deceased horses and claim horses.

What we found was each of these areas had their own protocols, their own considerations. From everything having to do with the number of samples you need to get, the chain of custody and how to maintain it.

If you have a horse that is injured on the track you may not have access to a witness from the trainer's barn.

Having a witness from the track or someone driving the ambulance may be the person you go to, but just to think through those types of situations as you go through your different protocols for different types of horses.

Post-race horses, we had a long discussion about how to get horses from the track to the test barn. How much surveillance should there be?

Is the risk really more on the horseman at that point until it enters the test barn?

We talked about a lotta those things.

You'll find that they are all represented in the document.

There's one consistent truth, and I promise you it is very important.

We have diminished value in blood-only sampling of numerous horses.

It is better to have paired, so blood and urine samples, on all horses but test fewer.

I know that we see that testing blood only may be a way to save money.

It certainly cuts your sampling time down.

It cuts the number of samples you run in almost half.

Truly it is important to test both of these matrixes.

The reason is there are so many things that we cannot find for long periods of time or at all in blood that we can find in urine.

By eliminating that matrix you're actually doing a disservice to your testing.

You're gonna miss many things especially some of the completely illegal, illicit substances.

If we're looking at post-race horses it's important to think how to get 'em back to the barn.

How do we maintain chain of custody?

I don't know there are some racetracks where you can watch a horse from the finish line all the way to the test barn.

Other tracks you hafta go quite a ways through tunnels, around many other barns. There's something to think about there.

Also making sure that there are communication with trainers and grooms especially when you're dealing with a special-ed horse.

In most cases the winner understands that they're going to be going to the test barn.

When you're choosing that second or third or fourth horse in some cases in some races how do you make sure that there's communication with the individual who's leading the horse especially given potential language barriers?

We've found there are consistent ways that you can do it. If they know that they get a tag on there — and trust me I know these things are not perfect.

There've been many situations where I've been at a test barn and they tagged the wrong horse or they missed the horse.

Thinking about all those situations is important as you look at your test barn policies.

Again, what sample do you wanna take?

Blood only?

Blood and urine or hair?

Hair is going to be used a little bit more out of competition.

We don't have anyone who's doing hair sampling for post-race testing, and it's probably not the best use of that sampling matrix in that case.

Those are things you wanna consider as a commission, where are you willing to spend your money?

Again, it bears repeating blood-only sampling you are missing quite a few things and quite a few opportunities for integrity.

Then you look at general test barn procedure.

Chain of custody is key as the labs have improved and their methodologies have become more accepted. LC-MS, no one is questioning whether an LC-MS test is

appropriate or can be defended scientifically. We're seeing more people trying to challenge chain of custody.

Some of the information that we want to make sure that test barns include you hafta have the right information, including gender.

We have some situations where we're not sure that all test barns are properly or even including the gender of the horse which makes a difference for anabolic steroids.

Medications that they're on.

Lasix and in some cases you still designate Banamine, Ketoprofen.

Just reviewing, making sure documentation is reviewed on a daily basis where there's an opportunity to ensure chain of custody before personnel leave the test barn for the day.

The other thing to make sure of is security.

You got active security in the test barn both for people and for horses.

Limiting the number of people, and many test barns do this very well.

The number of people limited to those that actually need to work with the horse.

I know on those big days you can try and get everyone and their brother on a winning horse on a big-stake race that wants to come in and pat the horse.

Maybe that's better served at the barn afterward.

Then horses, making sure that you have line of sight, you can keep them inside the test barn facility.

There are facilities that we still deal with where the horses actually go outside of the actual test barn perimeter for bathing. That's prob'ly one place that would be less than ideal for a security standpoint.

It's important as you're dealing with sample collection to communicate with your laboratory.

They should be able to tell you how much urine, how much blood you need and how the samples need to be handled.

What I mean by that is do blood samples need to be refrigerated?

If they're refrigerated how soon after sampling do they need to be refrigerated?

Do they need to be put into a centrifuge and spun before they're refrigerated?

All those things are communications you should be having any time you have a new laboratory, any time you start a meet, just to ensure that the laboratory and the test barn are working together to get the best sample handling.

There's a lotta things that can be concerning about sample handling.

Especially if samples sit out for long periods of time you can decrease the amount of a drug in there that can be detected.

Those are things that you need to consider.

Other things are timing of collection.

If you're looking at blood and urine collection oftentimes there're considerations of how long you wanna keep a horse in the test barn for urine collection, and then should the blood collection be after that?

Well, the things that you need to consider when you're waiting 'til after — if you have for example an hour and a half or a two-hour policy on urine, and you collect blood after the urine, that can have a significant effect on the delectability of certain drugs in blood.

For example, a drug like Banamine has a 90-minute half-life.

That means it will have been half the level that it was at the time the horse raced if you're waiting an hour and a half after you collect to go into the barn.

Conversely, if you have — I've seen situations where the vet gets to leave after they collect blood for the last horse of the day and it doesn't have to have peed yet.

That last race the vet will come in after 20 minutes and collect the blood and then wait for urine.

The horses in those races are actually being treated a little differently.

Setting up a standard time or even a standard maximum time prior to testing is an important consideration as you move forward in this.

Blood collection we generally recommend sealed vac containers whenever possible. Some exceptions would be for horses that have allergies to silicone on needles, so you hafta collect them a little differently.

In this case, again, it's important to discuss the type of tube at the laboratory because each tube will do different things, hafta be handled in certain cases differently.

In some cases there are things that you can test for in some tubes that you can't in others. Just really having that discussion with the laboratories important so that you know what you're getting.

We recommend collection opposite furosemide administration.

We've had a couple of instances where someone's gone directly through where the furosemide has been administered to collect blood.

We find that if you collect on the opposite — so for example I do Lasix administration in Kentucky, and we generally administer on the left.

There are certain trainers that prefer it on the right.

If they prefer it on the right we note that, and then we collect blood on the left.

Obviously, there are going to be some situations where a horse only has one vein that works, and then you hafta work around that.

You just do the best you can and try and eliminate or limit those issues.

You must ensure that the witness has the opportunity to inspect watching and sealing of all tubes.

Sometimes they don't take and that's their decision.

At least if you give them the opportunity you've done your job.

Urine collection is free catch.

It's basically a stick and a cup.

When I started I started in a test barn.

I started when I was in vet school working in a test barn.

We weren't using disposable gloves at that time.

Now that's just the standard.

I don't know of a jurisdiction that doesn't use disposable gloves.

We use single-use collection cups.

Again, you hafta allow the witness to collect and watch the sealing and the splitting of the sample.

Then consider how long you wanna keep horses that don't pee.

I mean, sometimes you hafta get creative if you have a horse that you know is going to pee as soon as it gets back to its stall.

We've had situations where we've followed the horse back, and then the trainer or groom has followed us back just depending on how important you find it to get that specific sample.

Other considerations are split samples.

We certainly think that there should be split samples and how they should be — how much of a sample you need to have a split.

How they should be stored. Just considering your policy for that.

Then when you're looking at other types of samples make sure you have policies for hair collection, any other collection.

We've had on deceased horses we've seen people who do heart blood sticks or aqueous humor or something like that, just something unusual if they want some more information.

Generally, for the sampling processing it needs to be a restricted area.

Horsemen should not be on the same side of the — or should be across the counter ideally from the commission personnel.

The witness must always have visibility of what's going on.

With blood, again, you need to discuss the procedures with the laboratory.

Depending on the tubes there'll be different settling time if you need to have 'em centrifuged, and how long it can be before they're refrigerated.

Urine, again – splitting the sample.

You need to make sure you've got identification labels and seals on both the split sample and primary sample.

I know that sounds pretty basic, but I've seen it not done that way.

To consider how quickly it should be frozen and what temperatures they should be frozen at before shipping.

Generally, the important parts are that you ensure every day that your chain of custody remains intact.

This is often done by people double checking paperwork, making sure everyone's signed everything.

Making sure the sample log is completed correctly.

Then primary sample, again, work with your laboratory to ensure proper shipping procedures depending on how far you're shipping 'em, what method they're being shipped by.

We have everything from Next Day Air to UPS or FedEx.

Split samples, again, we need to ensure that they're stored in a secure manner in accordance with the regulatory authority's rules.

Some require them to be shipped offsite. Some require them to be held in a refrigerator or freezer at the test barn. I think there are benefits to each of those.

I guess I'm more familiar with them being kept at the test barn.

That affords the horseman the ability to inspect the split sample before it's sent off.

The sample should be maintained at least until samples are cleared.

In other words, you shouldn't have a set 60-day hold date because if there's a sample that's in there that's from a positive test, you should keep that sample until it's cleared or the adjudication is complete.

You need to develop procedure for split sample handling and shipping.

I'm gonna tell an interesting story.

I worked with a jurisdiction that requires the horseman to pay for the shipping and go with the investigator to the shipping site in filling out the paperwork because the horseman has to pay for the shipping.

Somehow the horseman's return address got put on the package.

Well, it went to the lab.

It got held.

It got sent back to the horseman.

That pretty much ruins your split sample opportunity.

That's something to consider. It's the littlest things that can really cause issue.

There's special testing. Total carbon dioxide collection time is important.

We recommend either before racing or an hour and a half or more after racing which allows the acid/base — the lactic acid to wear off enough to actually get a more accurate reading or a pre-race reading of the carbon dioxide.

Keep in mind that your lab processing time is limited. You can't usually hold onto a sample from a Wednesday and have them tested on a Monday.

They need a shorter collection-to-testing time.

You need to make sure you're following accurate processing procedure.

These are going to need a little bit different sampling.

Out of competition sampling.

It's important to have procedures for onsite and offsite, in state and out of state.

We need to first tell — you need to figure out who can sample and what they should tell horsemen.

I've done some out of competition testing for a couple of states that have actually sent me letters to hand out to the horsemen so that they understand why they're being selected, what information is going to be used, what kind of testing is going to go on.

That's very helpful.

Which samples are needed and how much, how many tubes of blood.

I've not yet seen urine collection for this purpose.

I have seen hair when you send horses to Europe and England.

Make sure you include chain of custody documentation, sample handling and shipping requirements equipment for out of state samples.

Make sure that your lab's shipping numbers are good.

I've gone to ship samples and had them say this is an invalid FedEx number, we won't ship this. It's a \$200 shipment fee.

That's not something that the commission that's shipping it for them is willing to assess.

Make sure all those things are in place before you start sending out out of competition testing samples.

Then the facility.

This is really where the tracks come in.

If you're looking at designing a new or improving an existing facility make sure you're looking at a secured perimeter.

A lot of facilities are starting to have security cameras.

West Virginia has them.

Lines of sight are important.

I know we all have the tradition of having a shed row where you've got the stalls in the middle, walk around the outside.

Think about how much time those horses are out of your sight.

Then make sure you have an adequate facility for processing and storing the samples.

Other general considerations make sure you've got good signage.

Often needs to be in two if not three languages if you're in Canada.

The stalls are good.

We actually have some pictures in there of stalls that are from Canterbury Park.

They have a stall wall, a small wall in there to protect the test barn collectors from a fractious horse.

Which having been a test barn collector at Canterbury Park there were times I was very thankful for that.

Good lighting: I can't tell you how many times I've had to draw blood by feel.

It can be more challenging if you've got a fractious horse.

Ventilation especially in the summer, and then good equipment and keeping them clean.

We go through all of these things very much in depth in the document, and they should give you all some good ideas.

Even so much as what kind of solutions are the best to clean the stalls.

The answer is not bleach. Hopefully, that'll give you some good ideas.

Other general considerations with personnel.

How should they dress? The one thing we hafta consider is that they are supposed to be professionals and as they should look professional when they're handling your samples so that there's not a question of whether they're being professional.

We recommend that there be an attending veterinarian available.

There has been more than one occasion where we've had to either send a horse home or identify some lameness issue in a test barn.

I think that's very important for them for there to be someone who can respond to those issues.

Use of veterinary technicians is, in all, is very appropriate.

Especially when they often draw blood or things like that do things that they're licensed to do within the Veterinary Practice Act in your state.

Lay staff, make sure they're trained.

They need to understand chain of custody just as well as your veterinarian and the people in your commission office.

Lay integrity concerns, so some of the issues we have, we've seen horse ownership.

I owned a horse while I worked at the test barn at Canterbury that raced. Every time my horse raced I took the day off.

Just made it very easy and clean.

That was when I was catching urine there.

It's a small community. We all know everyone in the racing world has two or three jobs.

Oftentimes you'll have people who walk hots and then come and work in the test barn.

It's important to have all those relationships and all that information disclosed, so you can make adjustments and account for those and not get any concerns about the integrity of the sample or the process.

The document is available online.

At least it will be at the end of today.

We're happy to answer any questions you have about it.

This is my brand-new off-the-track Thoroughbred.

I have two now, and they're very adorable.

We're happy to answer questions.

We're happy to be a resource.

I've gone into a couple of test barns and tried to help them with their procedures and practices and just considerations.

Please don't hesitate to contact us.

[Applause]

Dr. Ron Jensen: Now, I know this is the last session of the last day, and so there may be some informational fatigue going on.

I just wanted to point out that this is not the test barn that we're talkin' about here today.

[Laughter]

Dr. Ron Jensen: We've been racing horses in this country for quite a while.

The early colonists had experience in racing in England.

In 1665 the first governor of New York laid out a racecourse on Long Island.

The first documented Thoroughbred race in this case was in Annapolis, Maryland in 1745.

Today we race in 34 states.

Throughout the history of racing there's always been those who would try to take a little edge or get a little benefit from some sort of potion, medication, whatever, in the contest.

Romans, there's some reports that the Romans way back 800 B.C. were using a solution of honey and herbs of some sort to try to gain an advantage.

Early racing in England it was reported that whiskey drenches were a common pre-race treatment.

In the 1930s you could buy narcotics over the counter at your local drugstore.

It said that 50 cents worth of heroin laid on a horse's tongue would provide a pretty good stimulatory effect.

That led to drug testing in this country.

Because the medication was administered orally the first matrix tested was saliva.

There may be a few of you out here who are old enough to remember when the test barn was referred to as the spitbox.

Urine testing was added sometime later.

In the '70s blood testing pretty much replaced saliva, although saliva has been used since that time.

In Chicago some time ago there were some unexplained low-level cocaine positives.

It was theorized that perhaps a cocaine user had contaminated the tongue tie when they were affixing it to the horse.

We did some saliva testing at that time to try to prove or disprove that theory.

Now as Dr. Benson mentioned hair testing is being introduced.

The bottom line is regardless of the matrix being tested, the bottom line of the operations of the test barn is to produce and deliver forensically sound samples for post-race drug testing.

If indeed there is a positive finding by the laboratory we don't want the adjudication of that case to be jeopardized by a flaw in the chain of custody or in the procedures in how that sample is handled.

Dr. Benson has explained very well what we expect to be in the design of a test barn.

It doesn't hafta be real fancy, but it does hafta be well thought out and not just an afterthought. It hafta be some thought given to the test barn that you provide.

Dr. Benson also described the facilities very well, but I'd like to also introduce that you need to eliminate as much possibility of sample contamination as you can.

It's pretty obvious some of it. You need to pick out the stalls.

You don't hafta strip the stalls between horses, but you need to pick out the wet spots in the manure.

Obviously, you need to clean and disinfect the drinking buckets not only to prevent contamination, but also from a bio-security standpoint from the prevention of the transmission of disease.

You don't wanna have any food and drink in the area where the test samples are handled.

Like I said, these are pretty obvious situations.

There's some less obvious situations that come up once in a while that are suspected to be a cause for some cross contamination.

Inadvertent contamination. In another jurisdiction there were, again, some low-level cocaine positives that were kind of unexplained.

They went through the test barn, tested different areas of the test barn and found that the pens used for signing the witness tickets actually showed a low-level contamination of cocaine.

It was theorized that a cocaine user from one of the stables — some of the stable help had been cocaine users.

They used that pen to sign the witness ticket.

The collector then used the same pen, and it was a possibility that that was a source of contamination.

Now they use separate pens for the people that are with the horse to sign the ticket as well as a different pen for the collector.

Dr. Benson also mentioned the importance of security of the barn.

You need to have good fencing.

You do need to limit access.

Although I think sometimes you need to use a little discretion in that area because it can present an opportunity to show people exactly that we are making a good attempt to regulate drugs in racing.

I think it was the late '70s when Secretariat won the Triple Crown.

He came to Arlington Park.

There was a race for him at Arlington Park shortly thereafter.

Secretariat was a big deal.

I mean, it was not only on the sport page it was — that was in an era also where most major newspapers had turf writers.

It was also on the front page, so it was a big deal.

We had all kinda racing press there.

Every law enforcement agency within about four counties sent a representative to guard Secretariat.

When he won he came to the detention barn with a whole entourage of folks. You had to limit it, but like I said it was — and the folks in the welfare panel this morning said it all.

We also need to take an opportunity when we can to show that we're making a good faith effort to do right and to make sure that drugs are eliminated from racing.

Also in delivering a forensically sound sample your personnel's important.

That too's been discussed.

Again, as Dr. Benson mentioned you often end up using racetrack personnel.

These are licensed individuals who work for a trainer in the morning and come and work in the test barn in the afternoon.

If their horse that they have any affiliation with or that their trainer trains comes to the test barn, need to be sure that that individual does not have anything to do with him while he's in the barn.

It's important to have good standard operating procedures in place.

They need to be written.

I wasn't convinced of it when it was first introduced, but it is a good idea.

Also it's a good idea is to maintain a log to record any deviations from that particular standard procedure that might occur for whatever reason so that when you are asked to give witness, be a witness in a hearing, you can honestly say that — you may be asked to describe the collection of that particular horse.

You may've gone through many, many horses in a couple of months since that sample was collected.

You can honestly say that every horse is collected in a similar manner according to the SOP, but if there is any deviation from it that's been documented and that's available to the stewards or the hearing officer if they need it.

It's also handy to have a record of problem horses, horses that are difficult to collect. Some horses need blinkers.

They're a little bit shy. Type of bedding they're on.

If a horse is commonly bedded on straw he's more likely to produce a sample if you use a straw-bedded stall, same way if they're bedded on shavings.

Some horses were more likely to produce a sample if they're turned loose.

Some are better if you tie 'em to the stall.

Now, I show this slide here for a couple of reasons.

You can see — well, you can't see real well, but it's basically the collection cup on about a three-foot pole.

If you think about it, imagine yourself kind of in midstream and somebody comes charging at you with a club with a big knob on the end of it.

It's not real conducive to producing a sample. You hafta have somebody with horse sense. Get around a horse, how to move around a horse.

There have been unsubstantiated reports of unscrupulous trainers who have actually tried to train their horse not to urinate after they exercise.

Cool 'em out, put 'em in a stall. When they stretch out and start to produce a sample they get after 'em with a broom or a buggy whip or something like that.

You can also see that a trainer or his representative has every right to witness the entire procedure of the collection of the sampling process.

That little window that's there's different ways to do that, but they hafta be afforded that opportunity.

Some of the observations we've seen we've made as we travel around in the accreditation process, the Safety and Integrity Alliance accreditation process.

I've labeled this best practices with a question mark, and it's prob'ly not.

If a break room for the help is not provided where they can keep their food and drink, it eliminates the possibility of having food and drink in the area where the samples are handled.

Failure to wear disposable gloves.

It's best practice now to be sure to wear disposable gloves in the whole collection sampling process.

You hafta be a little careful how you handle the collection containers between horses.

You assign a horse to be collected to a particular collector.

He gets ready to go. He stands out in the shed row, waits for the horse to cool out, go in.

Sometimes when your first attempt at collecting a sample is not successful they'll have 'em bring the horse out, walk 'em a little longer and try him again.

It's important that you protect the integrity of your collection containers in the interim.

Make sure it's covered or prob'ly the best practice is to just dispose of that collection cup and get a new one.

It's considered best practice to split the urine sample into two portions and collect at least two tubes of blood.

One set of samples designated as a primary sample for the laboratory, and the other set of samples are the split samples for the trainer.

The trainer absolutely has a right for a second opinion on a positive lab finding, and he has the right to send that to a split sample laboratory.

Now the list of laboratories that he's able to send that split sample to is provided by the commission.

There are laboratories that are considered to be good split sample laboratories.

In other words, a trainer can't send his split sample to Joe's Bar and Grill and Drug Testing Laboratory.

It has to be a bona fide laboratory.

This is not the regulators fault, but you also see a failure of the trainers represented to observe the process.

It would seem to me that it would behoove a trainer to have somebody, a reliable person from his outfit, stay with the horse through the collection process.

Because when that representative signs that witness ticket he's attesting that you have collected that sample from the right horse in the correct manner.

It just looks to me like — I think trainers, and no offense, but they really should — it would seem to me it'd be an important thing to pay attention to.

We've actually discussed earlier here of the importance of collecting urine.

In a lotta places there's an increase in the number of horses that are being tested.

We test more claimed horses than we used to before we ever started testing claimed horses.

In some places they claim a lotta horses.

There's been a growing tendency to release those horses maybe after an hour because you can get kinda jammed up in a test barn.

You can get too many horses in there at the same time, and you may not have enough collectors.

It's important to recognize the importance of urine in drug testing.

It's been mentioned that some are more really potent medications and protein-based medications that are very difficult to detect cuz they're administered in such small amounts.

The advantage of urine is twofold.

One, just about all drugs and their metabolites are eliminated in urine. Two, you have a dilution factor.

A racehorse of any sort has a tremendous circulatory system.

A 1000-pound horse may have 8, 9 gallons of blood.

Whereas, he has maybe a quart or a quart and a half capacity in the urinary bladder.

You have that concentration effect that's in your benefit when you're collecting urine.

This bottom bullet point, again, is not in the actual collection and in handling of the sample.

When there is a positive finding the veterinarian and the collector may be asked to testify in that hearing.

Witnesses need adequate preparation.

Witnesses need to know that the defense attorney in these cases is going to try very hard to try to discredit your testimony or at least bring doubt to your testimony in that hearing.

There needs to be some preparation of the witness.

The witness also needs to know that "I don't know" is a perfectly valid answer.

Attorneys will ask the same question in different ways, and if you don't know, you don't know.

It's better to give that answer than to try to speculate or guess about the answer to the question.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to put a little plug in for racetrack operators and commissions to avail their regulatory veterinarians to continue education.

We do not have a formal curriculum for training regulatory veterinarians in this country. I'm pretty sure there's not any in the entire racing world.

One of these — a very good place to send your veterinarian — well, let me back up a minute.

Because we don't have any formal education for regulatory veterinarians it's often on-the-job learning.

If you're learning on the job only what happens in your jurisdiction, there may be other ways to accomplish the task that you're asked to do.

An important source of information is the American Association of Equine Practitioners annual convention.

It's not part of the official program of the convention, but the day before the convention begins there's a day dedicated to and for regulatory veterinarians and racing chemists to get together to share ideas, to ask questions of each other and to learn how to better do your job.

You also learn to network with people so that if you have a problem that you heard or at one of these meetings that you've heard that in this jurisdiction they handle this problem in a particular way you know who to call.

You can call them and get some help for your problem.

There's also a regulatory veterinary web chat site that's available.

Those of us who are involved with the Safety and Integrity Alliance in the inspection visits as we go around racetracks we can provide best practices that we've seen.

They may not be earthshaking, but they are just little observations that might be helpful in doing your job.

There's also an international group the International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians to accomplish a similar purpose.

You find out that we all share a common goal, but we have different ways of going about it.

The most recent international conference was down in Monte Verde, Uruguay.

We refer to the test barn as the collection area as the test barn.

They call it the anti-doping center.

I was intrigued by the size of this collection vessel they use in Uruguay.

You saw examples of what we use in that little slide I have and what Dr. Benson showed.

That's a pretty heavy-duty, serious collection container.

This is a collection stall.

Nothing unique about that, but this is an example of the monitoring system they have in their collection facility.

Every collection stall has a camera on it.

The walking ring is here. It has a camera on it.

The area where the samples are processed have a — it's all on this monitoring screen.

We don't have any experience with camel racing in this country I don't think, but there is different racing in different parts of the world.

They go about things a little differently, again, with the same purpose.

This is camel racing in Dubai.

Whoop, let me go back here.

Camel racing in Dubai.

This is kinda the finish of a four-mile race.

This is a four-mile oval that's devoted to camel racing.

This little guy here got a little shaky here.

This little guy here obviously thinks he's won the race.

Then here you have after the race we've got the first three finishers heading back to the testing area.

These are the also-rans goin' back to their assembly area.

This is how they collect urine from camels.

They have arranged these collection bags and affixed 'em to the camel, and they collect the urine.

This is obviously a — I don't know if it's a filly.

I don't know what they call female camels, but that's a female, and that's a male.

You can see they're collecting a sample.

The point is there's a lotta different ways to go about this, and it's kind of interesting to know about it.

I put this last slide in sort of for a couple of reasons.

One, camels really were pretty nice animals.

I mean, they were pretty sweet animals.

That's my wife.

That's Peter Kallings; he's a regulatory veterinarian from Sweden.

Also an example of prob'ly what you don't wanna have in a testing area are all these folks.

I mean, our hosts were very gracious.

They were anxious to teach us about camel racing and how they conduct their business and also to answer any questions that we might've had.

Speaking of questions if you have questions I think we can take a minute to do it.

[Applause]

Mr. Steve Koch: We are happy to take any questions.

We also do have several copies of the document for those of you that would wanna take it home with you.

If you have any questions about camel testing Andrew Offerman is here.

They've been known to race some at Canterbury, so he prob'ly is the local resource on that.

If there are not questions I'm happy to wrap this little event up.

Great.

Thank you all for your time.

[Applause]

Mr. Steve Koch: Thank you all so much.



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RACE TRACK INDUSTRY PROGRAM**