

Hair Testing



- Janet VanBebber, Chief Racing Officer, American Quarter Horse Association
- Dr. Scott Stanley, Chief Equine Analytical Chemist, Maddy Equine Chemistry Laboratory, University of California, Davis
- Izzy Trejo, Executive Director, New Mexico Racing Commission

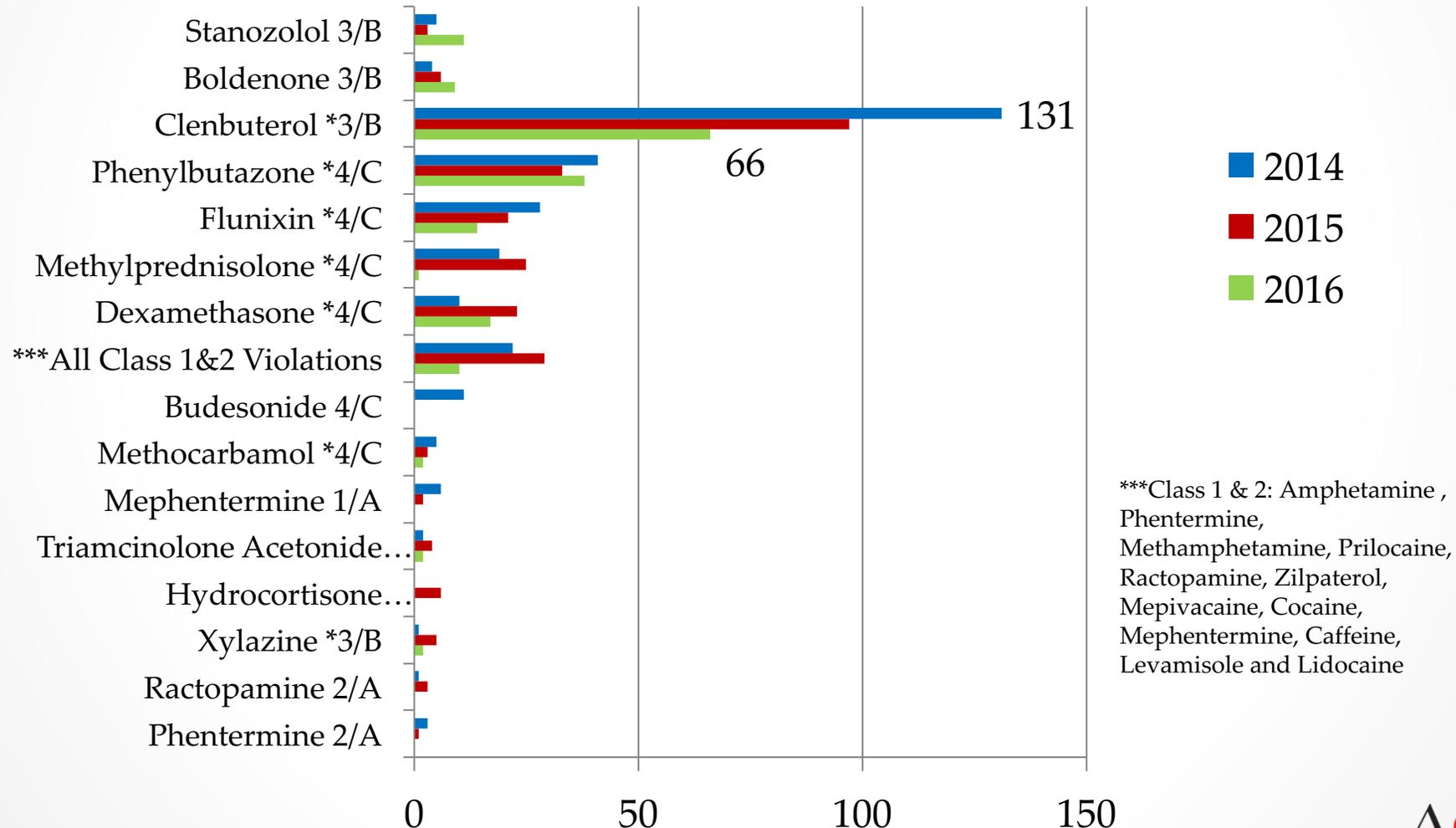
Why does AQHA endorse hair testing?

- Our role is to advocate for the welfare of the American Quarter Horse, and to foster integrity in the sport
- Goal: to align ourselves with racing jurisdictions and agencies such as RMTC and ARCI in a joint endeavor to better the sport

The Problem

- Rampant abuse of anabolic steroids and Clenbuterol (Ventipulmin)
- Despite regulation, abuse continued, often going undetected in blood and urine. The industry needed a mechanism to monitor drugs given farther out

Number of Medication Violations by Drug Compound (Total 768)



***Class 1 & 2: Amphetamine ,
Phentermine,
Methamphetamine, Prilocaine,
Ractopamine, Zilpaterol,
Mepivacaine, Cocaine,
Mephentermine, Caffeine,
Levamisole and Lidocaine

The Solution

- AQHA began conversations with key industry stake holders and jurisdiction leadership to help inform them of the problem, and to begin an open discussion of possible solutions.
- Breed specific restrictions on Clenbuterol adopted into the ARCI Model Rules in April 2017
- Increased number of jurisdictions recognizing Clenbuterol as a prohibited substance, and implementing hair testing as a means to test for it and other medications

A case study: Los Alamitos Race Course

- First in the Quarter Horse industry to implement hair testing as a condition of entry
- Started testing hair in October, 2014
- CHRB reports a decrease in catastrophic loss at Los Alamitos from 3.2 per 1000 starters in 2013, down significantly to .86 per 1000 in 2015

Moving Forward

- Address the vulnerabilities of a new science in our industry
- AQHA, seeking to ensure standardized testing processes, facilitated a meeting to discuss uniform testing protocols between laboratories
- Define and publish Best Practices for collection and chain of custody (RMTC)
- Instruction videos for sample collection (UC Davis)
- RMTC to conduct follow up testing between laboratories to ensure consistent results in their findings

Conclusion

The American Quarter Horse Association asserts that hair testing is a valuable weapon in the available arsenal to combat medication abuse. While it is not our suggestion that it replaces traditional testing of blood and urine, this testing mechanism can complement them.