

**Equine  
Committee Report**

**2009 NIAA Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009**



The Equine Species Committee met on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 from 8:00 am to 11:30 am EDT, during the 2009 NIAA Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky with 28 people present. Ms. Kerry Thompson served as the Chair, and Dr. Robert Stout served as the Vice Chair.

The committee session focused on equine health issues, specifically Contagious Equine Metritis and African Horse Sickness, as well as industry welfare initiatives. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the following equine health and welfare topics:

**Dr. Peter Timoney, University of Kentucky, and Dr. Robert Stout, Kentucky Department of Agriculture,** presented "*CEM Revisited: A re-emergent problem for the equine industry species.*"

Dr. Timoney started off the discussions on CEM with a presentation reviewing what CEM is and its significance. He discussed the clinical signs of the disease, transmission factors, characteristics of carrier states in stallions and mares and disease diagnosis. Dr. Stout continued the CEM discussion with a Kentucky perspective on understanding the disease and how to manage it, including challenges of certain testing procedures, protocols and resources.

**Dr. Barry Meade, USDA/APHIS/VS,** presented "*Epidemiological Overview of CEM Outbreak.*"

Dr. Meade gave an overview and update on the status of the current CEM outbreak in the United States. He discussed the importance of import quarantines and incident response capabilities and gave an epidemiological summary of the outbreak.

**Dr. Peter Timoney, University of Kentucky,** presented "*Equine Piroplasmiasis: National serosurvey update.*" Dr. Timoney gave a brief report on the national serosurvey on Equine Piroplasmiasis, which is currently underway with results expected in the coming months in an effort to determine an estimated level of prevalence of EP in the United States.

**Dr. Peter Timoney, University of Kentucky,** presented "*The Potential Threat of African Horse Sickness in the United States.*" Dr. Timoney reported on African Horse Sickness and the potential threat of this foreign animal disease in the United States. He gave an overview of the disease including clinical factors, transmission and diagnosis. He discussed the possibility of introduction of the disease into the naive U.S. horse population and the damage such an introduction could cause.

**Ms. Marilee Meyers, World Equestrian Games 2010 Foundation,** presented "*Introduction of the 2010 World Equestrian Games.*" Ms. Meyers gave an overview of the upcoming 2010 World Equestrian Games, which will be held for the first time in the United States, in Lexington, KY. This will be the first time the games host a total of 8 equestrian world championships.

**Industry Welfare Initiatives Panel**

- **Ms. Peggy Hendershot, National Thoroughbred Racing Association,** presented "*NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance.*" Ms. Hendershot introduced the National Thoroughbred Racing Association's new program titled the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance. This program focuses on medication and testing, injury reporting and prevention, safety research, a safer racing environment and aftercare for retired racehorses.

- **Ms. Beth Taylor, United States Equestrian Federation**, presented "*Equine Welfare and Safety at USEF.*" Ms. Taylor discussed the various rules and regulations of the United States Equestrian Federation regarding welfare and safety issues. Some of the issues these rules and regulations address include general welfare of the horse (cruelty, abuse, soundness...), drugs and medications, and safety coordinators. She mentioned equine funds used for research as well as disaster relief, as well as the recent National Eventing Safety Conference and the initiatives that resulted from that meeting.
- **Ms. Sally Baker, American Association of Equine Practitioners**, presented "*AAEP Welfare Initiatives.*" Ms. Baker spoke about the various welfare-related issues of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. She mentioned the AAEP's equine welfare committee as well as task forces that are developed regarding a specific issue (such as on the Tennessee Walking Horses and the practice of soring), which developed a white paper on soring. Another AAEP initiative that Ms. Baker discussed was horseracing and performance horses, specifically a newly released white paper on the racing industry. Also mentioned was the Unwanted Horse Coalition and initiatives regarding unwanted horses.
- **Ms. Hallie Roach, Racing Medication and Testing Consortium**, presented "*Racing Medication and Testing Consortium.*" Ms. Roach discussed the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, an organization formed in 2002 that works on research on a variety of items (performance enhancers, environmental contaminants, etc.) and forms model medication policies, drug rules and penalty guidelines for racing commissions to adopt. She also mentioned future plans of the consortium to enhance the drug testing initiatives for testing labs to advance equine drug testing to an unprecedented level.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- One new resolution was accepted on Equine Infectious Anemia, which was based in the approved 2008 USAHA resolution and gives details on how the control of the disease should be enhanced.
- Two existing resolutions were reviewed and reaffirmed as they were at their five-year expiration date. The two reaffirmed resolutions include 63 on Animal Health Emergencies and 65 on the formal implementation of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) guidelines. The committee felt that both issues were still relevant and continue to be addressed and that the resolutions should be reaffirmed.
- The NIAA Animal Care committee requested consensus from the equine committee on resolution 7 on equine transportation and processing. The committee approved/affirmed this resolution.

**Committee Session adjourned at 11:35 am EDT.**