

**Ontario  
Racing  
Commission**

9<sup>th</sup> floor  
20 Dundas Street West  
Toronto ON M5G 2C2  
Tel (416) 327-0520  
Fax (416) 325-3478

**Commission  
des courses  
de l'Ontario**

9<sup>e</sup> étage  
20 rue Dundas ouest  
Toronto ON M5G 2C2  
Tél (416) 327-0520  
Téléc (416) 325-3478



## **Death Registry Information for Racehorse Owners, Trainers and Veterinarians**

Starting January 1, 2003, owners, trainers and veterinarians are required to inform the Ontario Racing Commission within two days of the death of any racehorse, where the death has occurred within 60 days of the horse having been entered or qualified to race in the Province of Ontario.

(Reference: Rule 6.47.1 through 6.47.4 in the Rules of Standardbred Racing and Rule 15.32.1 through 15.32.4 in the Rules of Thoroughbred Racing).

### **If your racehorse dies**

- In cases where the death of a racehorse occurs within 14 days of the horse having been entered or qualified to race, a post-mortem will be mandatory.
- Beyond 14 days, a post-mortem may be required at the discretion of the Director of Racing.

**All deaths within these time frames must be reported**, regardless of whether the death occurs on the track, on the racetrack properties or at other off track facilities.

### **Contact the Commission Vet**

If a licensee owns or trains a horse which dies under these circumstances, the licensee must contact the Commission Veterinarian at the closest operating racetrack for the breed. During the off-season, Thoroughbred licensees should contact the Director of Racing.

### **Provide Information**

Once contacted, the Commission Veterinarian will provide the licensee with the necessary instructions on how to proceed. The licensee will be expected to provide details surrounding the horse, including details of the death and any clinical history preceding the death. The licensee must also provide copies of any reports or records prepared by the veterinarian(s) who treated the horse prior to its death.

### **Licensee responsible for transporting the animal to the post-mortem facility**

It is the licensee's responsibility as the owner or trainer to ensure that the horse is transported to the post-mortem facility.

### **Post Mortems conducted at Guelph and Kemptville**

The Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) of the University of Guelph provides diagnostic services in support of the Death Registry for the Ontario Racing Commission. Contact information and directions to these locations are available from the Commission Veterinarians, ORC offices and through the Judges and Stewards.

### **Costs**

Where the test is considered mandatory, the Ontario Racing Commission will be assuming the costs of the post-mortem. Otherwise, the trainer of record and/or owner is responsible for the costs of the procedures.

For horses submitted under the Death Registry program, standard post-mortems (necropsies) and ancillary testing are performed on submitted horses and billed according to the current Animal Health Laboratory Fee Schedule (see the AHL website for details - [www.ahl.uoguelph.ca](http://www.ahl.uoguelph.ca) ). In most cases the costs will be approximately \$500.00. In the case where a post-mortem must be conducted outside of regular business hours, additional costs may apply.

Toxicology testing will be sent to an external lab, and will be billed separately.

The Director of Racing may order extra testing at the Director's discretion. The licensee may also order extra testing but will be billed accordingly.

The owner may have to pay additional disposal costs in cases where a submitted horse has been treated with a sulfonamide that could still be present as a tissue residue. Due to new trade restrictions on rendering products, sulfa-treated horses will no longer be accepted by rendering plants and must be disposed of separately. If not accepted by deadstock, sulfa-treated horses must be incinerated at an extra charge (\$1/kg).

### **Post-mortems**

Post-mortem examinations are conducted as soon as possible after submission

### **Results**

Lab results are reported to the Director of Racing by fax or e-mail. The turnaround time on test results depend upon the type of post-mortem required, as follows

- a. gross pathology, 1–3 days
  - b. histopathology, 3–10 days
  - c. parasitology, 1–3 days
  - d. bacteriology, 3–7 days
  - e. mycoplasmaology, 2–21 days
  - f. virology, 3–21 days
  - g. toxicology is referred to an external lab.
- (days = business days)

Extra time will be required for special testing and for tests done by external labs.

### **Reporting and confidentiality**

When all tests are complete on a mandatory post-mortem, a final report is sent to the Director of Racing with copies sent to the licensee who submitted the horse and the attending veterinarian (if applicable). Where the post-mortem was not mandatory under the rules, the report will be sent to the licensee who submitted the horse, a copy of which must then be submitted to the Director of Racing.

The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* applies to reports received by the Director of Racing. The results and the reports may be used by the Ontario Racing Commission for enforcement purposes, as well as for supporting the activities of equine research. Year-end statistical information on the Death Registry will be included in the Annual Report of the Ontario Racing Commission.

The Animal Health Laboratory of the University of Guelph does not release the results to any other person, except as stated in their literature, as follows:

*Results derived from testing done on samples from Ontario food animals submitted to the Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) may be used by the AHL and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) for statistical surveillance of animal health in Ontario. The AHL and OMAF will make all reasonable efforts to keep personal information confidential and will not disclose personal identifiers.*

### **General**

The Death Registry will assist the Commission in enforcing the Rules of Racing and will provide important information for equine research and health care.

For further information, contact:

Dr. Bruce Duncan  
Supervisor of Standardbred Official Veterinarians  
(519) 823-9319

Dr. Greg Taylor  
Commission Veterinarian  
Thoroughbred Division  
(416) 675-7223 ext. 2261

Terry Stone  
Director of Racing  
(416) 327-0520

February 1, 2003

death registry program\death registry general information ver 01-2003.pdf