

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Postmortem Examination Review: [REDACTED] (trainer Adan Farias)

Thursday, April 28, 2022, via Teams Meeting

Panel Members were Steward Rich Williams, Safety Steward Paul Atkinson, Chief Official Veterinarian Dr. Tim Grande, and Official Veterinarian Dr. Alina Vale. Also present in the meeting was trainer Adan Farias.

Monday, April 25, 2022, via phone call

Panel Member Official Veterinarian Dr. Alina Vale spoke with attending veterinarian Dr. Anita Yacoub.

Horse Information:

[REDACTED], 6-year-old Thoroughbred [REDACTED].

Incident Summary:

On March 12, 2022, [REDACTED] ran in the first race at Los Alamitos Racecourse. The race was listed as Claiming \$2,500 with a purse of \$7,500 at 4 ½ furlongs on the main dirt track. The track was listed as fast, and the weather was clear. The race was off at 6:06 P.M., and the horse did not have a kick at the end of the race like normal. Coming back the trainer believed there was something wrong with the horse. The horse collapsed walking off after unsaddling in front of the paddock. The horse died at 6:15 P.M.

Necropsy Summary:

A necropsy examination revealed the most likely cause of death to be acute cardiorespiratory failure (suggested by pulmonary congestion and edema with subpleural hematomas) secondary to exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH). It was not possible to rule out primary cardiac arrest (due to conduction anomaly or peracute myocardial ischemic event). Other gross findings included congestion in some organs (spleen, kidney, brain) and histology revealed hemosiderophages indicating previous episodes of pulmonary hemorrhage. In the "Gross Observations" of the final necropsy report, the microchip # is noted as [REDACTED].

Racing/Training History:

The horse did not race as a 2 nor 3-year-old. The horse began timed workouts 11/15/19 but did not race until 10/25/20. The horse ran 24 lifetime races with 16 races in 2021 and 4 in 2022. The horse was trained by Javier Sierra until 6/13/21 then the final trainer purchased the horse in a private sale. The horse was hyper and tried to take off with the rider ("try too hard" during training), and various treatments were used initially to calm the horse (ACTH, BC2A paste). A ring bit was used, and the horse gradually settled, however, the horse was ponied instead of galloped 2/26/22 and 3/1/22 in an attempt to save the horse's energy for breaking from the gate in the final race.

Veterinary History Summary:

The horse was treated with IV vitamin injections on several occasions. On 3/1/22 the horse was treated with dexamethasone IM. On 3/9/22 the horse was treated with ketoprofen. On 3/10/22 the horse was treated with phenylbutazone and methocarbamol, and Finish First paste was dispensed. The horse was treated with 150mg furosemide prior to racing, although the horse was not known to suffer from exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage.

Previously, on 10/7/21 Vitamin E/Selenium Powder was dispensed, and the horse was treated with flunixin meglumine and methocarbamol. The attending veterinarian did not recall an episode of exertional rhabdomyolysis; however, the trainer noted the horse had one episode of cramping up that turned out to be a colic episode. The horse had a dry cough in November 2021 and the Aservo Equihaler (ciclesonide inhalation) was utilized for suspected Inflammatory Airway Disease associated with living in a stall.

The horse was placed on the CHRB Veterinarian's List on several occasions for intra-articular medication (7/6/21- left front fetlock and carpus, front coffin joints, stifles; 9/3/21- front fetlocks; 9/21/21- front fetlocks; 2/9/22- front fetlocks and coffin joints) for synovitis and maintenance as the attending veterinarian noted the horse to jog slightly choppy. On 2/9/22 the horse was also treated with isoflupredone IM, a dewormer and phenylbutazone. On 10/19/21 the carpi and fetlocks were treated; however, the horse was not placed on the Veterinarian's List.

Pre-race Examinations:

Pre-race examinations had noted joint capsule hypertrophy and a decreased range of motion in both front fetlock joints, and heat in the left front hoof in the two most recent exams. In the race 4/18/21 the horse was noted to be short-strided and finished last. On 4/25/21 the horse was a CHRB Post-entry Panel scratch at Santa Anita Park and had slight shin exostosis. The horse was flagged on the track in morning training 9/30/21 and noted to have a "hocky" gait.

Conclusion:

This horse died after unsaddling following a race. It is noteworthy that the horse did not perform well in the race, and the trainer noticed something wrong with the horse as the horse approached the unsaddling area. The trainer carefully managed the horse's energetic behavior, and the horse received several intra-articular treatments in the final months.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alina Vale, DVM, MS
Rich Williams, Steward
Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward
April 29, 2022