

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Postmortem Examination Review: [REDACTED] (trainer Jaime Gomez)

Wednesday, April 27, 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 Jaime Gomez and Carlos Lopez.

Tuesday, April 26, 2022, via phone call

Panel Member Official Veterinarian Dr. Alina Vale spoke with attending veterinarian Dr. Larry Overly.

Horse Information:

[REDACTED], 2-year-old Quarter Horse [REDACTED].

Incident Summary:

On March 23, 2022, [REDACTED] was galloping on the dirt track at Los Alamitos Race Course during morning training. The regular exercise rider was riding the horse. Soon after the horse began galloping, two horses performing a high-speed workout approached the horse. The horse became unsettled and injured the left forelimb near the 3/8ths pole. The horse was evaluated and euthanized by Monitoring Veterinarian Dr. Jocelyn Lorbiecki with pentobarbital at 6:25 A.M.

Necropsy Summary:

A necropsy examination revealed an open third metacarpal (cannon bone) fracture in the left forelimb with evidence of chronic remodeling (severe dorsal metacarpal disease). Severe dorsal metacarpal disease was also detected in the right forelimb. No gross lesions were noted in the left carpus.

The horse's paper certificate notes a [REDACTED]; however, the horse is described at postmortem examination as a [REDACTED].

Racing/Training History:

This horse was unraced and had no timed workouts. [REDACTED] has owned the horse since birth. The horse's recipient mare died of colic and the horse became an orphan at 1 month of age. The horse was fed Foal-Lac milk then Foal-Lac pellets until weaning to hay. The horse was started under saddle at the trainer's ranch by the regular exercise rider. The early training consisted of jogging then slow galloping around an 800 yard track at the ranch. No speed work was performed at the ranch. The horse was known to be energetic but manageable and carried some swelling in the left knee (carpus). The horse was [REDACTED] a month after being started under saddle. The trainer noted difficulty with the registry in correcting the errors but the horse was [REDACTED].

The horse entered the track mid-January. CHRB regulations require horses have a microchip within 7 days of being housed at the track, however, due to track personnel issues, this horse had not received a microchip. The trainer reported jogging the horse at the track for two weeks then added slow gallops. In February, the horse alternated gallop and walk days. The horse performed a 110-yard untimed breeze on March 1 and then there were 3 walk days between gallop days. The trainer explained, in general, this may be due to a mild respiratory disease but could not recall a respiratory issue in this horse. The horse performed a 110-yard untimed breeze

on March 19. The trainer explained the horse was still a month or more from racing. The trainer recalled swelling in one of the horse's knees which was radiographed and injected with steroid then the horse received oral phenylbutazone for a few days. The trainer had never appreciated a problem nor sensitivity in the horse's shins. The routine in the barn was to apply an iodine/alcohol "paint" (counterirritant) on all young horses' shins, fetlocks, and carpi when unbandaged, and apply ice to the distal forelimbs after galloping.

Veterinary History Summary:

On 2/6/22 radiographs of the left carpus were obtained as the horse was grade 1.5-2 out of 5 lame in the left forelimb. No shin sensitivity was appreciated, however, there was effusion in the middle carpal joint. The radiographs were unremarkable, and the attending veterinarian recalled the trainer administered oral phenylbutazone for a few days. On 2/18/22 the horse was still slightly off and was treated with intra-articular steroid into the left radiocarpal and middle carpal joints placing the horse on the CHRB Veterinarian's List. The following day the attending veterinarian noted the horse to be "OK."

Conclusion:

This unraced 2-year-old horse sustained a fracture of the third metacarpal bone after reportedly taking an awkward step when acting up during a routine gallop. The trainer and attending veterinarian had not appreciated sensitivity in the horse's shins, however, dorsal metacarpal disease was detected on postmortem examination. This horse displayed mild lameness 4-6 weeks prior to injury, which the connections attributed to a knee (carpus) issue and treated the knee after utilizing diagnostic imaging.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alina Vale, DVM, MS
Rich Williams, Steward
Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward
April 28, 2022