

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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Postmortem Examination Review: [REDACTED] (trainer Craig Lewis)

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 via Teams Meeting.

Panel Members were Steward Will Meyers, Safety Steward David Nuesch, and Official Veterinarian Dr. Alina Vale. Also present in the meeting was trainer Craig Lewis.

Wednesday, March 16, and March 23, 2022 via phone call.

Panel Member Official Veterinarian Dr. Alina Vale spoke with attending veterinarian Dr. John Araujo.

Horse Information:

[REDACTED], 5-year-old Thoroughbred [REDACTED].

Incident Summary:

On February 26, 2022 [REDACTED] was performing a 5/8 mile workout during morning training on the main dirt track at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, CA. The track was listed as fast. The horse changed leads correctly then was injured passing the ¼ pole and fell. Monitoring veterinarian Dr. Jay Deluhery sedated the horse with detomidine and euthanized the horse with pentobarbital at 6:40 A.M.

Necropsy Summary:

A necropsy examination revealed open fractures in the medial and lateral proximal sesamoid bones in the left forelimb. The medial proximal sesamoid bone contained an osteopenic focus at the abaxial aspect. Additional findings included degenerative joint disease of the left carpus and right front fetlock joint.

Racing/Training History:

This horse ran 26 lifetime races, with 19 on the turf. Since recording the first workout in April 2019, the horse had at least one published workout or race every subsequent month up to and including February 2022, a period of 34 consecutive months. The horse finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in a stakes race 1/29/22, then worked 2/10/22 and 2/19/22. The horse was on the CA Starter List multiple occasions from 2019-2021 for fractious behavior loading into the starting gate, however, the trainer noted the horse was very easy to work with and train. The horse was shod with rim pads as the farrier had recommended that would be good for the horse. The trainer expressed some concern about the main dirt track surface, noting that it gets dried out and becomes loose (deep).

Veterinary History Summary:

The horse received furosemide prior to some races and workouts. On 1/12/22 the Chinese herb Yunnan baiyao was dispensed as a precaution to prevent exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage as furosemide is not permitted for stakes races. On 1/13/22, two days pre-race, the horse received phenylbutazone, methocarbamol, and intravenous fluids and electrolytes and GastroGard were dispensed. On 1/25/22 the horse received Adequan. On 1/27/22, two days pre-race, the horse received phenylbutazone, methocarbamol, and intravenous fluids with vitamin B complex and DMSO, and electrolytes and GastroGard were dispensed. On 2/6/22 Panalog (topical anti-fungal and anti-biotic) and Silvadene cream were dispensed for cracked heels.

Pre-race Examinations:

Recent pre-race examinations noted exostosis and decreased range of motion in both front fetlock joints, and proximal suspensory ligament enlargement. Fetlock effusion was noted until 8/15/21, with the left forelimb most affected.

On 4/1/21 an 'out of competition' exam was performed as the horse had been recently flagged on the track. The barn assistant informed Official Veterinarian Dr. Tim Grande the horse had a recent tie-up episode and mild muscle enzyme elevation. During the interview, the trainer and attending veterinarian could not confirm the horse had a tie-up episode.

Conclusion:

This horse developed proximal sesamoid bone fractures, and an osteopenic focus was detected on postmortem exam. This injury is associated with an accumulation of intense, high-speed exercise which correlates with this horse's racing career not having any breaks nor layoffs.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alina Vale, DVM, MS  
Will Meyers, Steward  
David Nuesch, Safety Steward  
April 10, 2022