

Thoroughbred Racing & Breeding Seminar

Thursday 10th November 2005

Hosted by Cheltenham Racecourse

A one day seminar aimed at racehorse trainers, breeders, owners, veterinary surgeons and bloodstock agents, as well as other organisations associated with the racing and Thoroughbred breeding industries.

9.00am **Registration and coffee**

9.50am **Introduction**

Peter Webbon - Seminar Chairman, Director of Veterinary Science and Welfare, The Jockey Club, London

10.00am **Where does the energy come from to gallop?**

How and where is the energy for exercise stored within the body? How is the energy in food turned into muscle contraction? Does supply of energy limit performance? What can we do to maximise performance by training and manipulating the energy supply system?

Dr Dave Marlin, Animal Health Trust, Newmarket

10.30am **Is there a relationship between the glycaemic response to food and bone disorders in growing TBs?**

What is glycaemic response? Is there a relationship between glycaemic response and developmental orthopaedic disease? Should diets with a high glycaemic response be avoided?

Dr Derek Cuddeford, Edinburgh Veterinary School

10.50am **Do diets make a difference?**

A summary of the morning session **Dr Teresa Hollands**, Dodson and Horrell

11.00am **Questions and discussion**

11.20am **The causes and effects of improved stud farm efficiency**

A review of veterinary advancements, their effect on conception rates and the consequences for stud farm management.

Professor Twink Allen, Equine Fertility Unit, Newmarket

11.45pm **How many Thoroughbred foals become racehorses? Latest data on the careers of 1,022 foals**

A large group of Thoroughbred foals were followed from birth to 3 years of age and their racecourse careers, or lack of racecourse appearances, were monitored and analysed.

Sandra Wilsher, Equine Fertility Unit, Newmarket

12.10pm **Questions and discussion**

12.30pm **Lunch**

2.00pm **Causes of lost training days - latest data**

What are the current main causes of days lost from training in Thoroughbred flat horses in the UK? Are there differences in the incidence of injuries between colts and fillies or 2- and 3-year-olds?

Dr Phil Dyson, Royal Veterinary College, London

2.15pm **The influence of genes on soundness and frailty**

How can genes affect the risk of injury in racehorses? An overview of our approach to studying this, what we've found so far and where such work fits into the bigger picture of reducing injury in the Thoroughbred.

Dr Lynn Hillyer, The Jockey Club, London

2.30pm **Effects of breeding-related factors on fracture risk**

First foals and those from older dams are generally thought to be 'weaker' than their peers. Are first foals at higher risk of fracture? Does having an older dam increase the risk of fracture? We also explore, for the first time, the effects of sire, dam and maternal grandsire on the risk of fracture in offspring.

Dr Kristien Verheyen, Royal Veterinary College, London

2.45pm **Fracture and tendon injury in National Hunt horses - early research findings**

How common are these injuries? Are the patterns of occurrence the same as in flat horses? What are the possible factors in the horses and their training that underlies any differences?

Dr James Wood, University of Cambridge

3.00pm **Questions and panel discussion**
Led by **James Wood**

3.15pm **Sore shins - risk factors and prevention**

How significant a problem is sore shins? What is the underlying pathology? What are the risk factors? Can we identify risk? How can exercise regimens be modified to reduce risk? What are the avenues for future research?

Dr Joanna Price, Royal Veterinary College, London

3.35pm **Monitoring the impact of training methods on soundness**

A new database will offer trainers the chance to record virtually all details of their training operations. Automatic monthly reports will then allow trainers to compare themselves, anonymously, with their counterparts and with their own historical record.

Dr Peter Webbon, The Jockey Club, London

3.50pm **Racehorse injuries and medical events 2000-2004 - method for collection and analysis with some observations on results**

What are the common injuries and events? What factors influence them? What strategies may reduce them?

Mr Anthony Stirk, The Jockey Club, London

4.05pm **Preventing musculoskeletal injury - where we are now and future approaches**

What has recent research told us about musculoskeletal injuries and how to prevent them? Do we know more than we did 20 years ago? What practical strategies can be adopted to reduce MSI. How well are research findings communications to the industry? What needs to be done in the future?

Dr Joanna Price, Royal Veterinary College, London

4.25pm **Questions and discussion**

4.45pm **Summary and close**