

# RACING HORSE SCENARIO

Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Competition, 2011

Prepared by: J Siegford & J Bailey

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## OVERVIEW: STABLE 1

- Thoroughbred racing stable in central California
- ~16 horses in training at a time
- Horses are run in handicap and stakes-level races



©Jill Bailey, VMD

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## OVERVIEW: STABLE 2

- Thoroughbred racing stable in southern California
- ~22 horses in training at a time
- Horses are raced in claiming to stakes-level races



©Centa

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## PERSONNEL

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Trainer has been training for &gt;30 years               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Considered a top trainer in California</li> <li>■ At the barn everyday, watches all horses train, often walks to the track with the horses</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Barn-dedicated exercise rider (16 yrs experience)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Also has jockey license</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Other riders and jockeys have been the same for many years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Trainer has been training for ~10 years               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Recently won top-level races in U.S. and abroad</li> <li>■ Has extensive exercise-rider experience (still rides own racehorses)</li> <li>■ Has own stable pony, accompanies racehorses to the track for training</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Various riders and jockeys used</li> </ul>

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## HOUSING: STABLE 1

- Box stalls
  - 3 m x 3 m (10' x 10')
  - Solid partitions between horses
- Bedded with shavings
  - 10 cm (4")
- All shavings removed and replaced in AM
- Manure and wet shavings removed in PM



©Jill Bailey, VMD

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## HOUSING: STABLE 2

- Box stalls
  - 3.7 m x 3.7 m (12' x 12')
  - Grill partitions between stalls
- Bedded with straw
  - 20 cm (8")
- All straw removed and replaced in AM
- Manure and wet straw removed 2x/day



©Jill Bailey, VMD

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ROUTINE HUSBANDRY: STABLE 1

- 4 horses/groom
  - Same grooms past 20 years
  - New employees are rare
- Groomed 5 days/week, 30 min/day
- After training horses are:
  - Walked until cool by a walking machine
  - Bathed
  - Ice boots for 30 min
  - Stable bandages on all legs before stalling



AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ROUTINE HUSBANDRY: STABLE 2

- 3-4 horses per groom
  - Grooms of various experience and capabilities
- Groomed daily, 35 min/day
- All horses taken out of stalls in PM
  - 20 min in sandy round pen (18 m (60'))
- After training horses are:
  - Walked by hand until cool
  - Bathed (unless too cold/inclement weather)
  - Provided with therapeutic leg care if needed
  - Stable bandages wrapped on all legs before stalling



AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## FEEDING PROGRAMS

### Stable 1

- Timothy hay available *ad libitum* in hay nets
- Alfalfa hay in AM
- Concentrated pellet fed in PM
- Water provided in buckets
  - Fresh water in AM, buckets washed 3x/week
  - Checked 2x/day
- Salt lick always available in stall

### Stable 2

- Timothy/oat hay available *ad libitum* in hay nets
- Grain mix + alfalfa hay fed in AM + PM
- Water provided in buckets
  - Buckets washed in AM when fresh water is given
  - Checked 3x/day
- Trace mineral salt lick always available in stall

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## SUPPLEMENTS

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vet gives new horses flaxseed<sup>+</sup> oil to cleanse GI tract</li> <li>▪ All horses are fed calcium and joint supplements</li> <li>▪ Horses in training receive weekly injections of vitamins and Adequan<sup>®</sup>*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Platinum Performance<sup>®</sup> feed supplement given to all horses</li> <li>▪ Adequan<sup>®</sup>* and other joint therapies utilized as indicated for horses in training               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ~65% of horses in stable receive these therapies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>+</sup>a.k.a. linseed oil

\*Polysulfated Glycosaminoglycan



AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## VETERINARY PRACTICES

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Same regular track veterinarian &gt;20 years</li> <li>▪ Equine-specialty hospital is also used for state-of-art diagnostics, therapeutics, &amp; surgeries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular track veterinarians are a group practice (5 DVMs)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide all modern diagnostics, treatments, and surgeries at the barn and/or racetrack facilities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## VETERINARY CARE

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dewormed 4x/year               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses pyrantel</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Vaccinated against:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Influenza and Rhino<sup>+</sup> (quarterly)</li> <li>▪ West Nile, EEE/WEE*, rabies, and tetanus (biannually)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Dental exams 2x/year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dewormed 2x/year               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fecal floats 2x/year, horses with high counts wormed more often</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Acupuncture and shockwave therapies</li> <li>▪ No vaccines               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Immunomodulators are used to boost immune system</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Dental exams 1x/year</li> </ul>

<sup>+</sup>Rhinopneumonitis (Equine Herpesvirus)

\*Eastern/Western Equine Encephalomyelitis

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## ROUTINE MEDICATIONS



Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All horses receive an injection of Bute* from vet &gt;24 h pre-race               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% horses receive Banamine®/Robaxin® injections from vet ~48 h pre-race for muscle stiffness</li> </ul> </li> <li>Bleeder medication is given to 60% of horses racing and doing speed work</li> <li>No medications violations in past 3 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All horses receive an oral dose of Bute* from trainer/groom ~24 h pre-race               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horses with muscle stiffness receive an additional dose of Bute* ~48 h pre-race</li> </ul> </li> <li>Bleeder medication is given to all horses racing and doing speed work</li> <li>One medications violation incurred in past 3 years</li> </ul>

\*NSAID (Phenylbutazone)  
 †NSAID (Flunixin)  
 \*\*Muscle relaxant (Methocarbamol)

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## LAMENESS MANAGEMENT

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trainer observes each horse with the rider up before training</li> <li>If groom detects a problem, trainer also checks legs after training</li> <li>The day after speed work or a race, the trainer and regular vet observe horses for lameness</li> <li>Trainer calls vet to examine horses with gait scores <math>\geq 2^*</math></li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grooms check legs as they prepare horses for training</li> <li>Trainer observes gait on the way to training</li> <li>Trainer calls vet for horses with gait scores <math>&gt; 3^*</math></li> <li>Trainer calls vet to examine horse if unable to resolve lameness (<math>\leq 3^*</math>) within 2 days</li> </ul>

\*1-5 scale, 1 = not lame

©The England Equine Medical & Surgical Centre, 2011

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## HOOF CARE

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horses are shod every 5 weeks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminum racing plates with rims</li> <li>Farrier uses calipers, angle gauges, and levels</li> </ul> </li> <li>The trainer is present for shoeing of horses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horses are shod every 3 weeks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aluminum racing plates with toe grabs</li> <li>Hooves are trimmed to slightly elongate the toe</li> </ul> </li> <li>Grooms communicate with farrier</li> </ul>



Shoes w/Rims



Callipers



Angle Gauge



Shoes w/Toe Grabs



©Jill Bailey, VMD

©Farrier Depot, ©Centaur Forge, ©Go Horse, ©Pleh Tool Company

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## HEALTH OUTCOMES

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BCS range 4-5                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 80% have a BCS of 4.5</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ BCS range 3-5                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 70% have a BCS of 5</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ~2 horses/year experience colic</li> <li>■ ~1 horse/year with respiratory problems</li> <li>■ ~2 horses/year have gait scores <math>\geq 2</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ~3 horses/year are pulled from training due to bowed tendons</li> <li>■ ~1 horse/year with respiratory problems</li> <li>■ ~5 horses/year have gait scores <math>\geq 3</math></li> </ul>

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

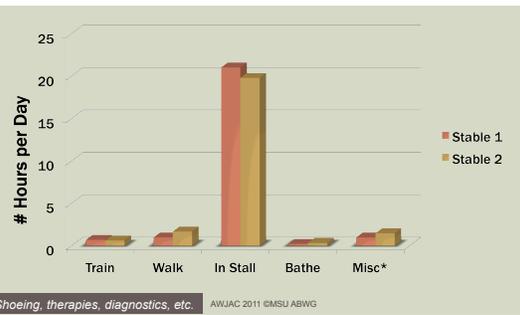
---

---

---

---

## DAILY TIME BUDGETS (DURING TRAINING)




---

---

---

---

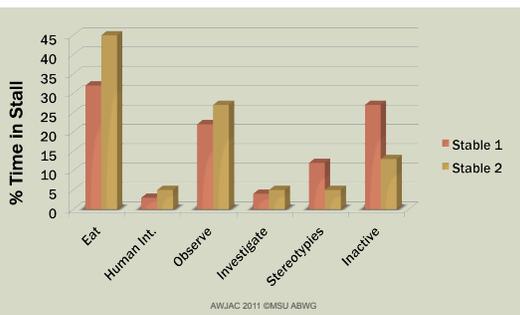
---

---

---

---

## TIME BUDGETS (IN STALL)




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## TRAINING: STABLE 1

- Train for ~5 months before racing starts
- Horses exercise on the track for 25 min/day, 5 days/week
- Horses do timed speed work 1 day/week
  - On the day of speed work, regular exercise is shortened to a warm up
  - After speed work, horses are walked for 1 h
  - The day after speed work, horses are walked 1 h (no other exercise)



©Jill Bailey, VMD



©Jill Bailey, VMD

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## TRAINING: STABLE 2

- Train for ~3 months before racing starts
  - Horses are turned out on pasture at a local farm when not in training
- Horses exercise on the track for 40 min/day, 6 days/week
- Horses do timed speed work 2x/week
  - Speed work immediately follows regular exercise
  - After speed work, horses are walked for 1 h
- Horses rest 1 day/week



©Jill Bailey, VMD

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## TRANSPORT TO RACE

### Stable 1

- Horses are trailered to the race 2 days before
  - Horses are always transported w/stablemate
  - If the race is >6 h away, horses are rested and given water 1x during trip
- Upon arrival, horses are given water from home barn (w/electrolytes)
  - Water offered frequently (6 L (1.5 gal)/30 min)
  - Intake is monitored

### Stable 2

- Horses are trailered to the race 1 day before
  - Barn goat accompanies horse to races
- Upon arrival, the horse is given water from racetrack barn to drink *ad libitum*



©Jill Bailey, VMD

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### RACING

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Horses race 2x/mo, 6 months/year</li> <li>■ After a race, horses are walked for 1 hour/day for 4 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Horses race 1x/week for 6 months/year</li> <li>■ After a race, horses are walked 1 hour/day for 2 days</li> </ul>
	

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### PRE-RACE PHYSIOLOGY\* & BEHAVIOR

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Salivary cortisol = 1.8 ng/ml</li> <li>■ Heart rate is 48 bpm</li> <li>■ ~2 horses regularly are lathered and prancing entering the gate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Salivary cortisol = 4.1 ng/ml</li> <li>■ Heart rate is 67 bpm</li> <li>■ ~4 horses regularly are lathered, prancing, and hopping entering the gate</li> </ul>

\*Measures taken 10 min before race      AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### CAREER LONGEVITY

Stable 1	Stable 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Average competitive racing career ~3 years</li> <li>■ Primary reason for retiring = lacks athletic ability to be competitive at stakes-level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Average competitive racing career ~4 years</li> <li>■ Primary reason for retiring = no longer racing-sound</li> </ul>

AWJAC 2011 ©MSU ABWG

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---