The Digital Age of Breed Registries and Horse Identification

Moderator:
Curtis Linnell: Executive Vice President, Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau

Speakers:
Chris Dobbins: Vice President, Business Development, InCompass
Curtis Linnell: Executive Vice President, TRPB
Mike Tanner: Executive Vice President USTA

Ms. Jane Murray: I promised a quick turnaround, and these guys were ready for it.

Our last morning panel will involve The Digital Age of Breed Registries and Horse Identification.

Our moderator for this panel will be Curtis Linnell, the Executive Vice President of the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau. Curtis?

Mr. Curtis Lindell: Thank you very much, Jane.

Of course, the first rule of doing the panel right before lunch is, don’t make anyone late for lunch. We will zip through this right away.

Just before I start, I’d like to do a few shout outs, thank you to the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program for hosting this. This is great.

Also, just on the digital tattoo side, if it wasn’t for the support of NYRA, and Martin Panza, and his staff, and Tom Robinson, Southern California, Del Mar, and Santa Anita, this wouldn’t have been a reality. Thank you to those organizations.
The third shout out is also to The Jockey Club, and InCompass, who we’ve worked very closely on the digital tattoo initiative, and we’re very pleased to have them also on this panel.

This picture is the one I see outside my window every morning at Fair Hill.

We have a race course, for some reason, being built.

A turf course at Fair Hill.

Eight furlongs, it’s pretty spectacular. There may be five days of racing, there may be more.

That’s the picture.

The crane, and the sunset that I see.

Let me go on. Again, we’re going to go very quickly. If there are questions to any member of the panelists, please approach us after, and we’ll be sure to take that on.

Very quickly, these are the topics we will cover in record time. History, we won’t spend much time on this, but certainly, why a digital tattoo is important.


That is the mechanism of horse identification moving forward.

We discontinue all lip tattoos on December 31 at the stroke of midnight, 2019.

Digital tattoos are the method of horse identification.

Horses are very distinctive. We have pictures of jockeys, and we have pictures of lots of participants in racing that we put on the screen, and we look at, but the one thing we don’t do, to the extent that it’s critical, is identify horses visually.

The entire equestrian industry does just that. They identify horses visually, and horses are extremely distinctive in their visual characteristics.

In fact, horses are described through their markings as the operative documentation of those horses.

This is Kickin’ Kirby and Ghostghostghost. We have lots of horse pictures in the database right now.
The digital tattoo is very simply a validation of the identity of the horse by a trained TRPB technician. These are the technicians that have been identifying horses for years and are extremely good.

A Thoroughbred with a digital tattoo now has a permanent picture ID. All those pictures of the horse — and not just the face — but, with a great amount of detail, will be associated with that horse through the scan of its microchip.

Immediately upon the scan of a microchip, a horse that has been digitally tattooed will have the full permanent digital documentation.

Why do we need this? We’ve had lip tattooing for 70 years.

The board of the TRPB, and by extension, the board of the TRA, for years, and especially for two years, debated vigorously, a system of, “If it isn’t broken, why fix it?”

It’s been highly effective, but the goal is 100 percent effectiveness for horse identification. We can’t be like the phone company, that promises a 99.9 percent up time, we have to be 100 percent. Have the tools to make sure that every horse in the race is the horse it’s supposed to be. There have been incidents which that hasn’t occurred, so the standard is 100 percent.

That’s extremely critical that we achieve 100 percent positive horse identification.

Lip tattoos were almost 100 percent. They weren’t 100 percent. Internationally, jurisdictions just using other forms of identification were not 100 percent.

The successor to lip tattoos was an integrity-based decision.

Obviously, racing associations have started to use microchips in horses for horse verification for stable areas, and for other mechanisms.

The Jockey Club started to use microchips for registration, that being a required part to get horse papers.

Racing offices, and I mentioned this before about Tom Robinson, Martin Panza, their staffs in Southern California, New York were then using pictures — literally pictures in binders to identify horses in the paddock.

All these things were happening, which is a precursor to institutionalizing digital tattoos.
Obviously, the microchips mentioned as part of the horse papers, the microchip itself is in the nuchal ligament, typically.

There are Canadian-breds that have that in the interdental papilla. Easier to detect, but not as secure, we think. Internationally, the nuchal ligament is the place of choice for a microchip.

Obviously, a scan number of a microchip will — will — if it’s the correct microchip when it’s registered — hit the registration data.

The registry itself, which we use, and our technicians have access to, includes copies of all the foal papers.

The foal registry photographs, which is something our technicians never had access to before in the field, unless they had a problem.

Now, TRPB technicians have immediate access to foal pictures, in addition to the description of markings on the foal certificates, to make sure that that horse is who it’s supposed to be.

Again, it’s not just a microchip number that’s on the registration.

Once that technician determines that that horse is who it’s supposed to be, the horse is digitally documented. That horse is now of racing age through pictures.

That becomes part of its permanent record.

Then also, a digital tattoo stamp is placed on the copy — for older horses — of its papers in the registry.

Of course, going forward, those will be electronic papers, which, again, will be the authoritative copy.

This is what we use in the field. It’s also, I think, important that this is what we’re recommending — recommending is the word — for all racing associations and commissions to use in verification for horse identity.

The reason we use the Datamars scanner is because the chips that The Jockey Club uses are Datamars.

We also use tablets, which are fairly inexpensive to replace, have some water resistance, and of course, connect up by Bluetooth to the scanners.
The process that we go through for TRPB technicians, we obviously tell all our technicians, number one, make sure you have payment, obviously.

We’ll also be expanding that payment in the field through 2020 to be able to take credit cards, and electronic payments, such as Apple Pay, and Google Pay.

We examine the horse. We do exactly the same steps as used to do for lip tattoos, except now we also have access to the foal pictures.

We make sure that when we scan that microchip, that the horse that we have in front of us, is the horse that’s registered for the microchip.

If there is corrections to be made, we need to make those at that point, and also inform the registry.

Obviously, confirmation, and unlike in the past, when a horse is rejected if there was a change in markings, now we’re completely documenting that horse, so that information goes to The Jockey Club registry, in order for them to make the correction to the certificate.

We take a lot of photographs in the field.

We take the face, markings, the chestnuts, the scars.

We upload all of those.

We can take up to 14 photographs, if that is required to document the horse.

Horse identifier doesn’t just use the face but can go as deep as he or she wants to, to absolutely confirm identification of the horse.

That horse is then TRPB certified.

It has electronic TRPB stamp on the papers, and also, in which Chris Dobbins is gonna talk about as part of the digital identifier, has a star next to that horse’s name in InCompass.

This is a photo sheet.

This is something that the New York Racing Association asked InCompass to put together from a collection, or a collage of a number of our photographs, because it was what they were looking at before in binders, in the paddock.
If you see it — at the lower right — that is collection of the four night eyes, or chestnuts, of the horse, which becomes an extremely distinctive — by pattern — marking for that horse.

Front view, and obviously, we look at a lot of different views.

All the digital photographs in the paddock, and for all horse identification, of course, can be expanded.

You can see whirls and cowlicks at very close detail.

Obviously, we’ve had a model rule for a couple years through ARCI, but every jurisdiction — we went from jurisdiction to jurisdiction to make sure their rules accommodate digital tattoos as an operative form of identification for Thoroughbreds going forward.

I should mention also, for Arabians.

Effective January 1, digital tattooing is an authoritative method of horse identification.

A horse that does not have a lip tattoo needs to have a digital tattoo.

Obviously, some more pictures. I wrote down the horses’ names, but maybe you can identify them in the database.

When we started training the technicians — and we have over 50 technicians across the U.S. and Canada.

They’ve all been trained this past year, except for technicians in some places with fair meets and small meets in the Northwest, and we’re concentrating that on the spring.

We have both lip tattooed and digitally tattooed over 2,300 horses to date.

That number will exceed 2,500 horses.

We’ve done double work on each of those horses, just to make sure that associations and racing commissions have a chance to test the new tool set.

This is a map in our conference room. It’s not a very pretty map.

It shows everywhere we’ve had digital technicians, if they’re certified, we look at all their photos.
We make sure that the photos meet a certain quality assurance for light, for color, for markings, for completeness. We work on each one that we say is not complete.

Obviously, we still have some more, if you see in the Northwest and in the Midwest — the upper Midwest, we still have some more technicians to do.

That’s where we are right now.

That’s it for this presentation.

If you have any questions about your jurisdiction, your association, how you use digital tattoos, please, don’t hesitate to find me, and talk to me at this session.

December 31 is coming very, very quick, and we don’t want to see it pass, and not have you ready. Thank you.

Let me introduce Chris, I’m just going to go down here, so he can take the podium.

Chris Dobbins, for all you students in the University of Arizona who have noticed that we have a wagering analyst position at the TRPB, Chris Dobbins is a living example that shows what a former wagering analyst can do, in terms of a career path.

He’s done extremely well in his racing career and is not done yet.

**Mr. Chris Dobbins:** Great.

**Mr. Curtis Linnell:** Chris joined InCompass — let me keep going, Chris. This is impressive.

**Mr. Chris Dobbins:** Oh. Well, thank you.

**Mr. Curtis Linnell:** Chris joined InCompass in the fall of 2011. He’s the Business Development Manager, after serving — of course, as I already plugged — the Senior Wagering Analyst for the TRPB.

He also was promoted to Vice President.

Chris is an alumni, University of Arizona, Race Track Industry Program. He has served on many industry committees, and is the former spokesperson for the InCompass Solutions, and all those tool sets from The Jockey Club.
We’re very pleased to have him work on the digital identifier, and all the other tools for InCompass, so thank you, Chris.

**Mr. Chris Dobbins:** Thank you, Curtis.

Thank you, the University of Arizona, for allowing me to come up here, and give a brief demonstration, and a tour of a couple of initiatives, that, in conjunction with InCompass, and obviously, I’m gonna wear another hat here, today, Jockey Club hat — and then in coordination with Curtis, and his team on the digital identifier app.

A couple of the objectives, here. We’ll take a quick tour of the digital identification application, and then I’ll give just a real quick, 10,000 foot view of how digital certificates are gonna come into play, now that we have that initiative going at The Jockey Club.

Let me get into the digital identifiers app. The big majority of this application falls on the backbone of our legacy, and really our core product of InCompass Track Manager, which a lot of you may know as RTO, Racetrack Operations Systems, but it’s been rebranded.

It’s a more modern interface.

Again, that’s our Track Manger product.

We leveraged that security model for access into this application, and it also contains a lot of the information that is in the identifier’s report that many identifiers use in the paddock for identifying the horses, along with the other tools, such as NYRA and California use, with the pictures that they provide as well.

In this identifiers app, we contain all of The Jockey Club registry foal photos that Curtis had mentioned, as well as all of the photos that the TRPB takes to certify this horse.

Once you’ve downloaded all of the information on the app when you’re connected to a Wi-Fi connection, or cellular connection, it does, then, have the capability to be used offline for the jurisdictions and tracks that don’t have that Wi-Fi capability in a paddock area, or wherever they’re doing their identification, whether it’s a holding barn, or such.

It does have that offline capability, to continue to use the application.

It is available in both stores, in the Google and Apple stores, so it’s not just one type of device, it’s both devices.
We’ll just take a look at it here.

Once you have logged in using your Track Manager credentials, you’re gonna see the tracks that you have access to in Track Manager.

We have several employees at different tracks that have various access to other tracks. An employee at Churchill may also work at Keeneland as an identifier, so they would see Churchill and Keeneland’s information here.

You would select your track you want to download your information from. Once you’ve downloaded all that information, it’s gonna download all your images, all the race card information.

You’re going to see each race that you have available to then identify the horses in.

You’ll then select the race you want to identify. Once you’re into that race, it gives you the information about that race, the horses in the race, and as Curtis noted earlier, the insignias.

If it has a star, it’s been TRPB certified.

The little symbol beside Valiant Defender, is he has a microchip.

Once they’ve been TRPB certified, it’s understood as they have both the microchip, and they’ve been certified, so then it converts to a star.

Once you select the horse that you want to identify, it will give you all the markings, the microchip number.

In some of the jurisdictions we have information that a paddock judge may have even added to this. This horse actually runs in blinkers.

We’ve added that information here, so if you have a person doing dual duty, identifying, and the paddock judge, he gets all that information in this application as well.

As Curtis talked about, the photo sheet that NYRA had. That’s available.

You click on the photo sheet section, and it pulls up the sheet with all the photos in it. Or, you can just select each individual photo, zoom in, zoom out, whatever you need to do to identify the horse.
Once you’ve identified this horse, you can then mark him as, “I’ve identified him,” or, “He happened to be scratched,” “He scratched.”

All that information, once you close out of this application, and you’re done for the day, the next day, when you go back in to download cards, or you’re reconnected to the internet, that information of, how you identified the horse is sent to InCompass Solutions.

We store that data.

If there was an inquiry, or investigation into a horse didn’t get identified, we can look and see, did the technician, or the identifier — whoever is reviewing this investigation, and seeing if this horse was identified, can see if he actually marked him scratched or identified.

I’m sure that’ll come in valuable later on, in case there does happen to be an issue.

Hopefully, with these new tools, we’ll get to that percent mark that Curtis referenced.

The other function of this, is, if you have the scanner connected, whether it’s via Bluetooth, or a wired connection to your tablet, or whatever device you happen to use for identifying, you could also scan the microchip.

Once you’ve scanned that horse, it would go directly to that horse that’s in the race that he’s in, so you don’t have to go searching for him, it’ll just go straight to that horse.

You can look at him, mark him identified, or however you need to mark him.

Again, this is just a copy of the certificate. It has the endorsements of the TRPB on there. That’s signifying that he’s been certified.

The other great thing that I’ll just touch on briefly, and I’ll go into more a little bit later, is that you’ll see the Breeders’ Cup insignia there.

With the digital certificate move, that’s another thing that The Jockey Club’s working with, all the breed organizations, and all the other organizations that affix something to a certificate.

It will be electronically affixed here.
Anything that’s typically stapled, we can handle it here, and get those things in probably a more quick, real time ability for racing offices, instead of having to go back to their breed organizations to see if he’s accredited or not.

That was the quick rundown of our digital identifiers app. We enjoyed working closely with Curtis, and his team on that.

I think it’s going to be a great product for all the tracks out there to use.

One point Curtis wanted me to just bring up about the digital identifiers app — again, it does require a Track Manager login, password.

If you happen to be a regulatory agency, and you have a need to use this, or your regulatory agency is the identifier, please go see your racetrack. Explain to them why you need a Track Manager access to this.

We do have a specific security group, just for identifiers, which can be a read-only access. Easy to give access to that once the track signs off on it, gives us approval to give you access.

Digital certificates; paper certificates will be no longer for foals after 2018, it will be all digital.

You’re not going to have to fumble through papers, you’re gonna have it all at your fingertips on your tablet.

Now, that’s for, obviously, just Thoroughbreds. We still have the other breeds, as far as our software goes, that we have to manage with paper certificates, whether it’s Arabians, Quarter horses, Paints, and such.

For Thoroughbreds, it’s all going to digital certificates.

I’m gonna give you a quick view of how you would move your digital certificates once you have registered with The Jockey Club, and received your digital certificate, of how you would get that certificate to the race track, and be able to see it in our systems, and Track Manager, like you do today.

You’ve registered this horse, or you’ve bought him. You have created an interactive registry account, and you are the managing entity/owner of the certificate.

You would then log in, look at your horse.
Select him from your inventory, and say, “Yes, this horse, Sapphire, I know is going to be going to Saratoga, and it’s not with the trainer at this time, so I’m the managing entity of this certificate, and I’m gonna send it to Saratoga.”

I select from my dropdown of tracks, I put in “Saratoga.” That’s where I need to send it to.

It’s going to come up and say, “Hey, has the ownership changed? Is it correct?”

It’s the best of your knowledge at the time, who might be the owner of this horse, as you as the managing person of the certificate?”

The managing person per certificate can be the owner, or somebody the owner can assign it to, and say, “Calumet Farm handles all my certificates,” even though it’s Peter Blum that owns the horse.

“Do you want to change the owner?”

No.

Now, I’m sending the certificate to Saratoga.

The ownership hasn’t changed, now I know that I want it to go into Graham Motion’s folder at Saratoga.

It’s no different than if I go into the racing office today, and I say, “I want to put these on file in this file cabinet over here,” I’m just creating a — it’s a digital file cabinet out in the cloud, that you don’t actually have to go, and actually go and see physical papers for.

I put it in.

It says, “Okay. Here it is.”

My digital certificate, I’m ready to assign it to Saratoga, make everything complete.

Peter Blum’s the owner.

I’m going to put it in Bill Mott’s folder.

You assign it to Saratoga.

Congratulations.
Saratoga now is the managing entity of that certificate, Peter Blum’s still the owner of it.

Bill Mott’s the trainer of it.

It’s just like it would be today with paper certificates.

They sit in the office, Saratoga, they’re the managing entity of these certificates, yet the ownership retains with Peter Blum.

As this happens, Saratoga’s gonna receive a notification saying they have been given managing rights to the certificate, and an email will go to the managing entity who sent it there, that the managing rights are now at Saratoga Race Course.

Just to give you some stats on where we’re at with this, since it’s all very new.

There’s been just shy of 30,000 digital certificates issued.

There’s been 56,000 movements of certificates, so about 1.9 per horse of moving around from one managing partner to another.

We currently have 5,900 active IR accounts.

Obviously, that’s going to continue to grow dramatically once we have everybody start using this process.

Of course, the most active accounts as of today, have been Keeneland and Fasig-Tipton, because of the horses going through sales prior to their two-year-old’s starting.

The yearlings of this year.

It’s been a very seamless process.

I think The Jockey Club did a great job of going out, and finding what the pain points might be, what everything needs to happen to make this work.

It’s been very well received.

We’re excited about this initiative as well.

Some tips about how this is handled in Track Manager.
Again, digital paper certificates, you’re gonna have to handle both to some extent for a while, especially on the Thoroughbred side, because it’s only affecting two-year-old’s, so you’re still gonna have paper certificates on Thoroughbreds as they move on out.

In Track Manager, we will mark, on the Horse Maintenance screen, whether you need to go into IR, that it’s a digital certificate, or you need to go to a file cabinet, it’s a paper certificate.

Again, this only affects two-year-old’s that are racing next year.

At the same time, we’re working on some modifications to Track Manager to send all that information from IR to Track Manager.

As you log in, and your racing office staff is looking in to see, “Do I have certificates available?”

You’re gonna go to just a quick flyout, a popup, “Here’s all the certificates that have been assigned to you.”

Go and assign preference states to ’em, verify everything.

Done.

It’s sitting in a digital file cabinet.

Really, not much different than what you do today.

A few changes in just your processes as far as where you go and look, and to see things, but the process still remains the same.

It’s either in a physical file cabinet, a digital file cabinet, and I still have to do the same processes in Track Manager that you do today.

That’s my contact information.

I know I went through it pretty quick, but I’m sure everybody’s gettin’ a little hungry, it’s close to lunch.

If you have any questions, please come find me, I’m happy to talk to you about either digital certificates, or the identifiers app.

Again, I thank you.
Mr. Curtis Linnell: Okay, great.

Thanks, Chris.

If I’m still mic’d up, let me sit right here, and introduce Mike Tanner. It’s my pleasure to introduce Mike Tanner. Vice President, Chief Executive Officer of United States Trotting Association.

Mike is coming from a mixed background.

He was a Thoroughbred guy for a while, and now he’s head of The Harness Association.

One thing, Mike is a sitting member of TRA 2050.

Mr. Mike Tanner: Yep.

Mr. Curtis Linnell: I didn’t notice that in your bio.

All three of us have that in common of the industry’s technology committee.

We’re very pleased to have Mike on that, and he contributes a lot.

Mike’s had a number of positions with Magna Entertainment, the Breeders’ Cup. You’ve done some work, Gulfstream, and the list goes long.

A graduate of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

I didn’t realize that, Mike.

Graduate work in clinical psychology, which explains how he deals with me so effectively.

With no further ado, Mike Tanner.

Mr. Mike Tanner: Yeah, thanks, Curtis.

Appreciate it.

It’s good to see everybody.

I am the non-PowerPoint guy, and I also am very time conscious, so I will have you out of here by 12:30, I promise.
The USTA decided in March of 2018, that we would switch over to microchips as a primary means of identification.

Actually, that’s not entirely true.

We approved microchips as identification back in 2009, but the USTA, and horse racing in general, I guess, is not known for moving quickly sometimes.

There were some people who didn’t want to see that happen.

We decided that it would happen in 2018, effective with the foal crop of 2019.

This year’s foals — all of them — are getting microchipped.

We’re also doing catch up with horses who were foaled prior to 2019, who are still competing.

If they are still racing in 2021, they will need to have a microchip.

We’ve had a lot of work with our 11 ID techs, going back, and microchipping horses who are three, four, five years old, etcetera.

So far, we have 7,500 horses who have been chipped.

We anticipate it will be another 10,000 that will be chipped by 2021.

Like what you’ve seen here from Curtis, and from Chris, our microchips are implanted in the nuchal ligament, halfway between the poll and the withers on the left hand side of the horse.

We entered into an arrangement with Merck Animal Health and our chips are biothermal, which means that with the appropriate reader, we can also in addition to getting number of the chip itself, we can take the horse’s temperature.

That’s proven to be pretty popular with the horsemen who have chosen to use that feature of it.

The other cool thing by partnering with Merck, is that it gives us all access to the Home Again Rescue Service.

It’s similar to our SOS program, our second chance, essentially, whereby if a horse has been identified as a Standardbred, if the owner has opted in, we can put them in touch with the people who found it.
This has proven pretty popular with the rescue organizations.

Now we also have the birth database that we will avail ourselves of, as well. We’re pretty grateful for that.

As I mentioned, in 2021, all Standardbreds that race in the United States are going to have to be microchipped.

We have had folks that said, “I’ll go with the microchip, but I still want my horse to be freeze branded.”

That’s how we identify our horses.

We have very few lip tattoos.

The freeze brands are very apparent, and it’s easy to spot a Standardbred, not only because of the horse’s confirmation and configuration, but because of the large tattoo on the right side of its neck.

It’s effective, it is not terribly aesthetically pleasing.

A lot of people have commented on that.

Some people like it, and so for a small fee, $75, we will continue to freeze brand for the next two years, at least, for those people who want that for their horses.

We purchase Bluetooth readers for all of our member tracks.

They retail for $279 each.

Smaller readers that don’t give you the temperature of the horse, can be purchased for $69.

We’re trying to get as many readers out as we can.

As I mentioned, rescue organizations are another group that I think we need to service.

We recently introduced and have watched the Standardbred Transition Alliance grow.

It’s modeled after the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.
One of the comments that was made when we announced that we were going microchips is that it will be harder to find Standardbreds in sales pens.

We are going to work with STA to try to get those readers out, so that horses can be more readily identified.

The benefits to us, as we see it, of the introduction of microchips, is that it’s a faster, and more efficient means of identification, and it’s less stressful on the horse.

We really like the biothermal component of the chip.

Anything that can perhaps provide some clinical indicators that a horse might be coming down ill, we think is positive.

As I mentioned, the homing and rescue service was a plus for us, as well. Although we are not — I think everybody knows that we’re not in favor of the Horse Racing Integrity Act — we nonetheless see the value in international harmonization.

Standardbreds all over the world have been identified with microchips for a while now.

We’re pretty much the last remaining continent, really — North America — that hasn’t really gotten with that program.

Our registration fees did not go up.

It’s the same as they were before when we were freeze branding.

It’s $150 for a suckling, $180 for a weanling, and then when the horse officially turns one, it goes up to $450.

It’s $35 to us to go back and microchip a horse that’s already been registered with the freeze brand and will still be competing.

There have been a couple of minor issues, and I’ll leave you with this, and then be available for any questions.

We had an issue, some people may have read about it in May, in Ohio.

Ohio’s racing commission had not changed their rule regarding identification.

It stipulated that it had to be a freeze brand.
There was a horse that came over from New Zealand named Better Joy.

Got a microchip upon landing in the States in December of 2018.

Had competed in seven races without a problem.

Shipped to Ohio, and was scratched that day, when it was scheduled to race in a stakes event.

There were some bureaucratic problems in Ohio, and I think things just got lost in the shuffle.

We had been in communication with the commission.

We’ve been in communication with all of the commissions, to ensure that this didn’t happen, but it did, and it happened a couple of times.

That has since been corrected.

It was just one of those regrettable things.

When it happened to a couple of overnight horses, it didn’t seem like a big deal, or at least didn’t make the press.

When it happened to a horse that legitimately is a stakes horse, that got a lot of press.

Of the 7,500 horses that have been chipped, there have been four instances of either infection, or an allergic reaction, something like that.

I should mention that our ID techs are trained to implant those chips, however, if a trainer, or an owner would like their own veterinarian to implant them, we’re cool with that.

We just have our ID tech out to take hair for DNA testing at the same time.

I mentioned the aftercare issues, something that we’re very aware of, and working to address.

As you will probably will not be surprised, that catch up fee, that didn’t go over real well with some people who were saying, “Well, we already paid our registration, you people changed the rules, you should have to absorb the cost.”
I will mention the $35 — we don’t see any profit off of that. It really is just to cover the cost of the labor, and the travel, etcetera. By and large, this has been very well received.

Like The Jockey Club, this links directly through tablets, and into our e-Track Race Track Support System, and into Pathway, our database.

I’m happy to see that it’s finally here.

I started in ’09, when this was approved, and then it just took a while for us to get to where we are.

We look forward to watching and learning from The Jockey Club.

I think what they’re doing is fantastic, and we will continue to refine our approach as we go forward.

Thank you for attention.

**Mr. Curtis Linnell:** Great.

We have just a minute or so, if there’s anybody who has a question, please come up to the microphone.

Again, if we don’t have questions, you can certainly talk to anybody on the panel here.

Thank you very much, I hear some stomachs growling.

Thank you for attending and have a good lunch.