

2008 ARIZONA RACING SYMPOSIUM

WELFARE & SAFETY OF THE RACEHORSE SUMMITS



DAN FICK

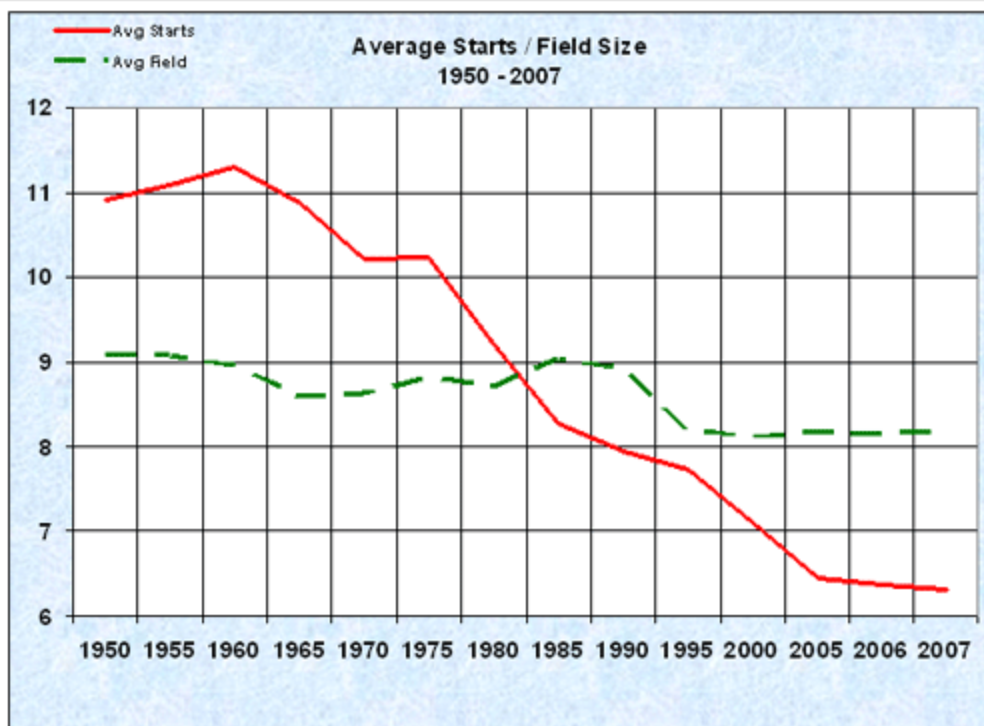


**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
& EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1950 - 2007

AVERAGE STARTS PER HORSE

AVERAGE HORSES PER RACE



**AVERAGE
STARTS**

6.31

**AVERAGE
FIELD**

8.17

AVERAGE STARTS & AVERAGE YEARS RACED PER HORSE

Year of Birth	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Average lifetime starts per horse	34.09	30.29	25.30	22.02	21.61	20.94	16.85	13.50*
Average years raced per horse	3.32	3.15	2.96	2.73	2.94	2.78	2.64	2.25*

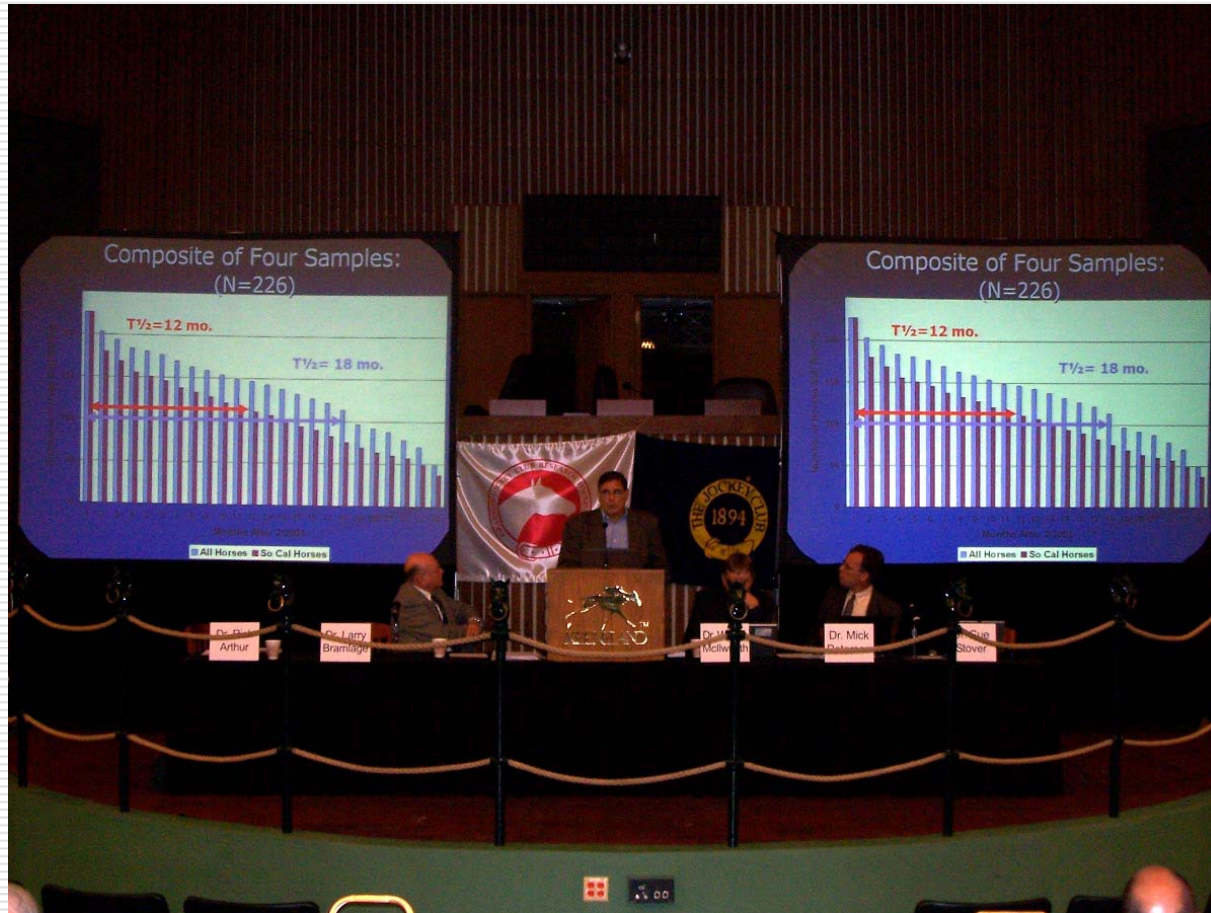
*Projected

2006 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMIT



- ❑ Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation coordinated at Keeneland in October 2006
 - ❑ Investigate factors in the decline in career starts and years raced in racehorses over last 50 years
 - ❑ 40 racing industry representatives
 - ❑ Statistics from Equibase and The Jockey Club Information Systems
 - ❑ 100+ research reports and articles on injuries, soundness, track surfaces, breeding and training
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PRESENTATIONS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS



WORKING GROUPS



STRATEGIC PLANNING



2006 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMIT INITIATIVES

- ❑ Developed durability statistics of Thoroughbred sires and maternal sires
 - ❑ Distributing scientific research to industry via website and bi-monthly newsletter
 - ❑ Passed RCI Model Rule banning use of regular and high toe grabs on front horseshoes
 - ❑ Developed, tested and implemented a uniform on-track injury reporting system
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2006 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMIT INITIATIVES

- ❑ In cooperation with Groom Elite, developed a uniform Trainers' Test for first-time applicants
 - ❑ Passed RCI Model Rule requiring the new national trainers' test and four hours of annual continuing education for trainers' license renewal
 - ❑ Developing protocols for standardized testing of racing surfaces and uniform monitoring of daily track maintenance
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2006 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMIT INITIATIVES

- Proposed RCI Model Rules for uniform vet scratch protocols, drug testing for claimed horses, voiding claims of DNF and vanned-off horses, and auction races
 - Eliminated the use of anabolic steroids in racing and horse sales
 - Developed interactive tablet PC module to record and database pre-race exams (InCompass RTO)
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2008 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMITT

- March 17-18 at Keeneland with 62 participants
 - 12 public presentations & panels including:
 - racing surfaces
 - on-track fatalities
 - shoes and surfaces
 - soft tissue injuries
 - durability index
 - equine genome
 - possible effects of riding styles
 - Groom Elite programs
 - Darley Flying Start Program
 - Two half-day strategic planning sessions
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2008 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMITT RECOMMENDATIONS

- **“The welfare and safety of the horse should be the guiding principle in the decision-making process for all segments of the horse racing industry.”**
 - **Create a national media strategy focusing on industry health and safety initiatives**
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2008 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMITT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a research and development model for all racing surfaces
 - Support research to improve racetrack maintenance equipment
 - Establish a central laboratory for timely analysis of racetrack surface materials
 - Establish uniform reporting of daily maintenance of racetrack surfaces
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2008 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMITT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote the standardization of pre-race exam protocols and the establishment of necropsy programs in all jurisdictions.
 - Correlate all research regarding all equine injuries and fatalities
 - Coordinate a blue-ribbon panel on equine racing fatalities
 - Create a program with incentives to attract and retain qualified regulatory veterinarians
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2008 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMITT RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Establish national drug-testing laboratory standards, quality assurance programs, and accreditation protocol
 - ❑ Analyze the drug-testing infrastructure to identify cost efficiencies
 - ❑ Develop a research and development program for drug testing in the U.S.
 - ❑ Establish uniform regulation of medication use in sales horses
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2008 WELFARE & SAFETY SUMMITT RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Expand the Groom Elite and other educational programs to provide training, certification and continuing education for the backstretch workers responsible for the care and safety of our racehorses
 - ❑ Pursue strategies to stress horse owner responsibility and ensure that horses are not subjected to inhumane treatment
 - ❑ Pursue potentialities to create a national self-regulatory structure and/or states' compact for horse racing
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www.grayson-jockeyclub.org/summit



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Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit

Summit Home	News	Committees	Presentations	Research	Links	
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The Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit, coordinated and underwritten by Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and The Jockey Club and hosted by Keeneland Association, convened a wide cross-section of the breeding, racing and veterinary community for a two-day workshop in October 2006 concerning the safety and soundness of the Thoroughbred racehorse.



The second Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit will be held Monday, March 17, and Tuesday, March 18, at the Keeneland Sales Pavilion.

Please visit these webpages regularly for updates on the activities and accomplishments of the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit.



Strategic Plan

November 2006

[Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit Strategic Plan](#)

Durability Statistics

September 2007

[Statistics on Durability Essay](#)

[Percent Starters from Foals of Racing Age](#)

[Average Starts per Starter](#)