



DEVELOPMENTS

INDUSTRY NEWS,
&
ANNOUNCEMENTS,
PEOPLE & EVENTS

FREE Microchip Benefits Underutilized

California Thoroughbred owners are underutilizing a *free*, fully-subsidized program that should eventually lead to improved safety and security for their horses, according to an assessment of the Microchip program at a CHRB Medication Committee meeting attended by several industry representatives on November 28. CHRB Commissioners John Harris and Richard Shapiro discussed the progress of this important program with Dr. Amy Nevens (program manager), California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) officials, and representatives from the tracks, CTT, and TOC. Dr. Nevens reported that *voluntary* participation by trainers to microchip Southern California-based horses under their care had peaked at 1,500 horses, well below the subsidy plan of 4,000 horses. Lack of knowledge about the program and skepticism among trainers who have not participated were among suspected reasons.

As described in the Fall 2006 issue of *Owners' Circle*, the implantation procedure only takes a few seconds. Each microchip is identified by a unique number, which is transmitted to the Jockey Club to be included in the horse's registration records. The CDFA and other entities are funding this pilot program through March 2007, which means owners can have their Southern California-based horses microchipped for free. Thereafter, the cost could run over \$50 per horse.

Owners are strongly encouraged to contact their trainers to begin participating in significant safety, security, and medical benefits, such as:

- Quick and accurate identification of horses entering and leaving restricted areas;
- Location and identification of infected and exposed horses during disease out breaks;
- Easy monitoring of body temperature with the use of scanners;

- Improved racing inventory management and databases for track racing offices and The Jockey Club; and
- Development of technological applications in the areas of medical record keeping, surveillance, race broadcasts, etc.

Contact Dr. Nevens at (626) 255-0087 to schedule your horses for implantation in their own stalls. Remember, this is a fully-subsidized, free pilot program for the first 4,000 Thoroughbred horses, until March 2007.

Shapiro Elected to Second CHRB Term

California racing commissioners unanimously re-elected Richard B. Shapiro chairman of the California Horse Racing Board for 2007. John Harris was named vice chairman.

Shapiro has served as chairman since January 1, 2006, after being appointed to the Board in 2005 by Governor Schwarzenegger. Shapiro has been extremely active as a racing commissioner, spending a great deal of his personal time on some of the most serious issues facing racing, including Advance Deposit Wagering (ADW), race dates, and backstretch improvements. He was also the driving force behind the CHRB mandate to install engineered surfaces at major thoroughbred tracks



Synthetic Track Update

Upon receiving long-awaited approval from the California Coastal Commission, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club is moving forward with installation of a "Polytrack" surface for the 2007 season. Installation is scheduled to begin this month, with targeted completion in March.

In Northern California, MEC has

announced plans to install a “Tapeta” synthetic racing surface at its Golden Gate Fields racetrack. According to Ron Charles, President of MEC California, installation will begin immediately after the closing of the Spring meet, in June.

California Owners Shine at Breeders’ Cup

Congratulations to owner J. Paul Reddam, who had a spectacular day in Louisville, where his Red Rocks (Ire) posted a big upset in winning the \$3 million Breeders’ Cup Turf at Churchill Downs on November 4, 2006. That win came on the heels of very competitive performances by his Great Hunter (third in the Juvenile) and Cash Included (fifth in the Juvenile Fillies).

Pablo Suarez and Royce Jaime, owners of Thor’s Echo, were also the beneficiaries of an upset win. With that victory, Thor’s Echo became the second California-bred Breeders’ Cup winner, joining two-time Breeders’ Cup Classic champion Tiznow.

Trudy McCaffrey and John Toffan were co-breeders of Round Pond, who won the Breeders’ Cup Distaff for owner Fox Hill Farms.

Congratulations to all California owners who participated in Breeders’ Cup XXIII – you made us very proud!

CHRB Names Assistant Executive Director

Richard “Bon” Smith, a certified financial manager who served as chief of audits with the California Department of Motor Vehicles, has been named assistant executive director of the California Horse Racing Board. Smith will coordinate and assist with the direct operations of the



CHRB staff and play an important role in the state budgeting process. He began his new duties on November 13.

“Bon Smith has a strong background in finance, extensive experience in state government, and an interest in and

run aboveboard.”

Check Out TOC’s Updated Website!

The TOC website has been updated with new technology and features! The most recent and exciting is the customized toolbar. The toolbar can be downloaded for free and contains links to free past performances, industry news, ADW sites, live video, a built in Google search engine, and even weather reports. The site also has an event schedule that is updated weekly to include TOC and other California industry related events.

HorsePhotos



Paul Reddam (right) leads Red Rocks into the winners’ circle after winning the Breeders’ Cup Turf.

appreciation of horse racing,” said Executive Director Ingrid Fermin. “He brings a valuable combination of knowledge, experience, and interests to the CHRB.”

Smith, 56, received a BA in social science in 1972 from UC Berkeley. Before moving to the California DMV, he worked for the California Department of Water Resources’ internal audit shop and the Department of Finance.

“At the DMV, I was part of the disciplinary review committee,” explained Smith. “One of the things we wanted was consistency. The same should be true for the CHRB or any state agency. All of us in state government answer to the public. The public wants a clean operation. Having strict, enforceable rules protects everyone and ensures it’s

events, and industry-wide events. The calendar is downloadable, so that you can import the data into Microsoft Outlook or other calendar type applications. The file format is comma delimited and easily transportable. This allows the import of important stakes dates and locations into your personal calendar, so you don’t miss out!

Visit our site at: www.toconline.com and let us know what you think. Send your comments and questions to watwell@toconline.com. We welcome your feedback!