

General Guidelines

The AAEP recommends that all horses that die or are euthanized at a licensed racetrack or training facility undergo a complete necropsy by a board certified veterinary pathologist at an accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory. Necropsy findings should be entered into the Jockey Club Equine Injury Database.

It is recommended that regular communication and interaction between the on-site regulatory veterinarian(s), practicing racetrack veterinarians, and the pathology staff at the diagnostic laboratory be established. This will enhance the necropsy process and the resultant information. It will also facilitate collaborative efforts when specific research interests are identified.

Transportation options for necropsy cases should be identified prior to need. Storage, pending transport, and transportation of the body should be managed in such a way that tissue degradation and the development of post-mortem artifacts are minimized. Care should also be taken to employ good infection control practices with respect to equine infectious and/or zoonotic disease.

If time or distance constraints preclude the transport of a deceased horse to the veterinary diagnostic laboratory, a field necropsy is recommended.

Field Necropsy

It is recommended for racetracks where field necropsy must be performed that a dedicated facility be available for performing necropsies. This facility should be located in a secluded area and be enclosed and covered for both privacy and protection from the elements. (A temperature controlled environment is recommended in areas where extreme weather conditions may exist.) Facility design should allow an equine ambulance to drive through. The enclosure should contain a large, well-drained concrete or asphalt slab with a rough finish providing adequate traction. Ample hot and cold water supply and hose are required to clean the area. Disinfection and/or sanitization protocols should be employed following each necropsy.

Field necropsy requires advance communication with carcass removal companies to determine requirements to insure that necropsied remains can be removed. Carcass removal and disposal should be performed by a licensed animal disposal company and in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Regulatory veterinarians are encouraged to seek guidance from veterinary pathologists to establish field necropsy protocols. Minimum standards for field necropsy are as follows:

For appendicular injuries the affected limb at the site of the injury should undergo gross dissection (+/- diagnostic imaging, toxicology, histopathology) and appropriate documentation of findings (written description and photography). The necropsy report should include

identification of the affected anatomical structure(s) including a description of gross lesions found in bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, skin and blood vessels.

For non-appendicular conditions, reasonable effort should be made to determine and document the cause of death. For sudden death occurring during or immediately after a race, the cardiovascular and respiratory systems warrant as comprehensive an examination as is possible.

Race related

For race-related fatalities, a 'best practice' inquest protocol is recommended that incorporates ante-mortem information (examples include: interviews with personnel relevant to the horse and/or the incident, exercise history, race replay video, medical history) and post-mortem findings.

Ante- or immediately post-mortem blood samples (and urine, when available) should be collected, maintained under chain of custody protocols, and submitted to the official racing laboratory.

NEW MEXICO RACING COMMISSION
NECROPSY SUBMISSION FORM

LAB INFORMATION

Additional necropsy examination (s) that exceed the standard necropsy or equine special necropsy required by and provided by the New Mexico Racing Commission (NMRC) are the responsibility of the requesting individual (SEE REVERSE SIDE)

When a horse dies or is euthanized and the NMRC Official Veterinarian is not available; the owner's or trainer's attending veterinarian must phone the laboratory within one hour and fax this completed Necropsy Submission Form to the laboratory. A copy of the completed Necropsy Submission form must be given to the NMRC Official Veterinarian's or the Official Veterinarian's next scheduled work day

Delay of necropsy makes some test results questionable in value. A necropsy will not be performed until the following information is provided:

Name of NMRC Official Veterinarian		Name of Horse	Name of Owner		
Track Name		Age (years)	Breed		
Address		Sex	Castrated		
City	State	Zip Code	City	State	Zip Code
()		Phone		Phone	
Phone		<input type="checkbox"/> Tattoo Yes # _____		No <input type="checkbox"/> If No, color and markings: _____	

Name of Attending Veterinarian			Name of Trainer		
Address			Address		
City	State	Zip code	City	State	Zip Code
()		Phone		Phone	
Signature					

Medications _____

Track where injury occurred _____ Location on track where injury occurred (if available) _____

History: Died Euthanized _____ Agent used for Euthanasia _____ Date of Death _____ Time of Death _____ a.m. p.m.

Horse Insured Yes No Unknown Human Injury Yes No

Clinical findings and Diagnosis: _____

Additional Requests:

This injury is related to one of the following: Running of the race Training Non-exercise related Other

Signature of NMRC Official Veterinarian _____ Date _____

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NECROPSY SUBMISSION FORM

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL NECROPSY EXAMINATION (S)

I accept financial responsibility for all charges from the (NAME OF LAB) for the additional necropsy examinations (s) requested below which exceed the standard necropsy required by and provided through the New Mexico Racing Commission.

Additional necropsy examination (s) requested:

Horse insured: Yes No Unknown

Full insurance examinations required by insurance company Yes No

Insurance Company

Address

() _____
Phone

City State Zip Cod

Print Name

Signature

Date