

# HORSE RACING ADVISORY

*(Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, Mule, Arabian, Steeplechasing, Harness, Hurdling, and Chariot Racing)*

## **BACKGROUND**

American Humane has established strict safety standards and protocols to ensure the health, safety and welfare of horses used for filming horse racing scenes. The [Guidelines for the Safe Use of Animals in Filmed Media](#) for [Horse Racing](#) have recently been updated by our Scientific Advisory Committee, a team of global experts in animal welfare who continuously review our *Guidelines* to ensure they reflect the most up-to-date findings and research. Their recommendations are incorporated in the following overview of our [Guidelines for Horse Racing](#).

## **START WITH THE RIGHT HORSE(S) - Considerations**

Not every horse is suited for use when filming scenes involving horse racing. In some instances, production may choose to recreate a race with movie-trained horses. In others, it may choose to collaborate with existing racetracks. While there may be some special considerations depending on whether you are working with trained horses or race horses, the following criteria apply for **all** horses, unless noted.

### **CRITERIA FOR HORSES:**

- All horses must be physically fit and healthy. No horse showing signs of injury, illness or lameness shall be used.
- All horses must be trained, acclimated, and conditioned to perform the required work, i.e., running, standing in and breaking from the gate, etc. Proof of conditioning and training is required.
- Horses that will be required to stand in starting gates must be specifically trained and acclimated to do so, since they may be in position for greater lengths of time when filming.
- No pregnant mares shall be used.
- No horse under the age of 4 years shall be used.
- Horses shall NOT participate in ANY outside activity other than those activities associated with their work in the film production.
- FILM STUNTS. Only trained movie horses shall be used when filming stunts.
- RACE HORSES.
  - No horse that is a registered as a bleeder with any state horse racing board or diagnosed with EIPH shall be used. No horse requiring the drug Furosemide (Lasix) or any similar drug shall be used.
  - No horse that is currently listed on any “vet list” of any Horse Racing Board shall be used.
  - Horses **must not have raced in the seven (7) days prior to filming at a minimum**. It is highly recommended that horses have not raced in the 10 days prior to filming.

## **MEDICAL EXAM REQUIRED – Allow adequate time**

Every horse must submit to and pass a medical exam assessing the horse’s overall health and soundness before it may work. **Please be aware that the evaluation may take 30-60 minutes per horse and be sure to plan accordingly based on the number of horses to be evaluated. ALL MEDICAL EXAMS MUST BE PERFORMED WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS PRIOR TO FILMING. A Medical Exam Form must be completed by an Equine Veterinarian for each horse that will be participating in racing/running scenes. The form is available on our website.** Should a horse fail to meet any of the requirements, the medical exam should be immediately discontinued. American Humane strongly encourages having a Certified Animal Safety Representative present for vet exams, if possible.

## **MEDICAL EXAM REQUIREMENTS:**

- All horses must pass a complete physical examination, including physical lameness tests (**flexion tests and palpations of soft tissues**). Horses demonstrating ANY lameness, or who are positive to joint flexion or flexor tendon palpations, will not be approved.
- All horses utilized should have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 4-5
- All horses must be drug free. Request for blood or urine samples may be requested.

## **REQUIRED INFORMATION & DOCUMENTATION - Plan Ahead**

The following information and documentation for EACH horse is to be submitted to American Humane **no later than 48 hours prior to filming AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EXAMINING VETERINARIAN** prior to the medical exam. **Gathering these records can be time-consuming; please plan accordingly.**

- **MEDICAL HISTORY FORM - to be completed and signed by EACH horse's Primary Veterinarian:**
  - Veterinary Records (including Vaccines) and Medical Histories for EACH horse.
  - Full Disclosure of any known medical condition must be provided.
  - Medical Histories should include: prior injuries and illness, ailments, results of any diagnostic tests performed for any known medical condition, etc. and a summary of any treatments performed on the horse
  - Primary Veterinarian contact information
  - Owner and Trainer information
  - Microchip, tattoo, and other identifying information including racing name (if applicable)
  - Age, Sex, Color and white markings (on head and legs) and photo (if available).
- Owners and/or Trainers must provide written documentation of the proof of conditioning and training of the horses, including workouts for the desired action.
- Owners and/or Trainers must provide prior racing records.

## **DURING PRODUCTION – Dos and Don'ts**

- All horses shall be available for additional examinations and testing during the duration of the film project.
- Production must provide a written racing schedule that includes the distance to be run, the frequency of runs, the track surface, the individual horse, weight to be carried, and environmental conditions.
- Production must keep a detailed medical file on each horse during production.
- Horses shall be limited to 2 starts per day traveling ¼ mile from the gate and 2 minutes of full gallop per week without prior approval from American Humane.
- Horses shall be limited to running no longer than 3/8ths of a mile at speeds no greater than 13 seconds per furlong or 15 meters per second.
- Horses shall NOT leave the premises, except for transport for emergency veterinary care during the duration of the film project.
- Production should provide for an adequate number of horses for use as back up.
- Equine Veterinarian and Animal Ambulance must be on set during filming.
- CAMERA CARS. When filming involves the use of Camera Cars, please see our [Guidelines for Insert Vehicles](#) .

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### **STATE HORSE RACING BOARDS and COMMISSIONS**

The links below will take you to state horse racing boards and commissions, where you will find state-specific horse racing regulations, veterinary lists, and lists of declared and prohibited substances.

[California Horse Racing Board](#)

[Kentucky Horse Racing Commission](#)

[Louisiana Racing Commission](#)

[New Mexico Racing Commission](#)

[Pennsylvania Racing Commission](#)

[Texas Racing Commission](#)

[New York State Gaming Commission – Horse Racing](#)

**EQUINE VETERINARY RECOMMENDATIONS -** [American Association of Equine Practitioners](#)

### **HORSE RACING WELFARE GUIDELINES**

[American Humane Guidelines for Horse Racing](#)

[International Group of Specialist Racing Veterinarians \(IGSRV\)](#)

### **AMERICAN HUMANE'S RESOURCE CENTER**

American Humane's Resource Center provides guidance to productions regarding best animal welfare practices, achieving desired animal action and care, licensing/permitting, transportation at no charge. Contact us at 1-800-677-3420 or email [filmunit@americanhumane.org](mailto:filmunit@americanhumane.org). For information regarding fees, [CLICK HERE](#). To register your production, [CLICK HERE](#)

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