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| Document Type | Equine Catastrophic Injury Review Template |
| REg. Reference # | *2121* |
| Racetrack | *Insert Track Name* |
| Version Number | *1.0* |

Equine Catastrophic Injury Review:

**Information to have before the interview:**

1. Racing/Training History - lifetime performance including official timed works

2. Veterinary History – Veterinarians’ List, Stewards’ List, Medication, Treatments

3. Pre-race Examination Findings

4. Medication Overages (if known/available)

5. Necropsy Findings

6. Reference Materials Relative to Cause of Death (reference list at end of this document)

7. Other

**Trainer Questions:**

Preamble: Thank-you for participating in this review of the catastrophic injury that occurred to <horse name>. The purposes of this review are to provide you with information on the injury your horse had and what we know about those injuries, and to gain a better understanding of circumstances around the injury that may be useful for preventing the same injury in other horses in the future. We know that catastrophic injuries are the sudden manifestation of a problem that was developing over several months or longer of time before the injury occurred, and the problem can be very difficult to detect before injury. Consequently, we will be asking questions related to the time leading up to injury that may provide clues to recognizing problems earlier and preventing horse deaths. Please feel free to ask questions and also to provide information that we did not touch on that may be useful.

1. First, lets go over the necropsy report…

2. Provide information relative to the cause of death

Provide continuing education opportunities (e.g., HorsemenU)

Supply reference(s) if applicable (see list at end of document)

The following questions help us with information that will be useful in recognizing signs of impending problems and early recognition of horses at risk for injury.

3. How long has the horse been in your care?

How did you acquire the horse?

What health history did you receive when the horse arrived in your barn?

4. Has your horse been examined by a veterinarian?

When was the most recent visit?

What was the reason for the examination?

What was determined?

Anything else that you noted?

5. How would you characterize the horse?

Size?

Conformation?

Temperament/behavior?

Any special management techniques based on above?

Equipment?

6. Describe the feed and dietary supplements.

7. How was the horse handling training and racing?

8. Has the horse had a layup?

What was the reason for the layup?

How long was the layup?

How long has the horse been in training since the last layup?

What was the nature of the layup? (e.g., pasture turnout, rehabilitation facility?)

What was the nature of the rehabilitation? (e.g, water treadmill, physiotherapy?)

9. Was the horse ever lame or have abnormal way of moving or gait?

When? (after work?, next day?)

How long did the lameness or abnormal gait last?

Cause of lameness?

10. Past problems?

Bones?

Joints?

Tendons?

Muscles?

Heart?

Lungs?

Throat?

11. Did the horse have diagnostic tests? And test results?

Nerve Blocks?

Joint Blocks?

Radiographs?

Ultrasound?

Bone Scan?

MRI?

Pet Scan?

12. Has the horse had surgery?

What surgeries?

How long ago?

13. Has the horse had shockwave treatment?

What was the reason?

How long ago?

14. Medication?

Medications administered in the last month?

Pain medications (e.g., bute)?

Bleeder treatments (e.g., Lasix)?

Ulcer treatments (e.g., Gastro-gard)?

Joint injections?

Tendon injections?

Antibiotics?

Other?

Reason for treatment?

Problem(s)?

Swelling?

Lameness?

Pain?

Other?

15. Shoeing?

Changes in shoeing?

Foot problems?

14. Did the horse race as a 2-year-old? Why? Why not?

15. How do you determine your horse was ready to work and how do you decide how far to work the horse?

16. What were your veterinarian’s findings on pre-race and pre-work examinations?

17. Were you present when the horse was injured? Please describe what occurred. Who attended to the horse after the injury?

18. Did you have any concerns about the track surface, in general or that day?

19. Reflecting back, knowing what you know now, what would you have done differently in caring for and training this horse?

20. Have you participated in trainer Continuing Education Courses? If so, comment?

21. Is there anything that you would like to tell us?

**Veterinarian Questions**:

1. First, lets go over the necropsy report…

2. Provide information relative to the cause of death

Provide continuing education opportunities (e.g., HorsemenU, publications)

3. How long has the horse been in your care?

What health history did you receive when the horse arrived in the trainer’s barn?

4. Was the horse ever lame or have abnormal way of moving or gait?

When? (after work?, next day?)

How long did the lameness or abnormal gait last?

Cause of lameness?

5. Past problems?

Bones?

Joints?

Tendons?

Muscles?

Heart?

Lungs?

Throat?

6. Did the horse have diagnostic tests? And test results?

Nerve Blocks?

Joint Blocks?

Radiographs?

Ultrasound?

Bone Scan?

MRI?

Pet Scan?

7. Has the horse had surgery?

What surgeries?

How long ago?

8. Has the horse had shockwave treatment?

What was the reason?

How long ago?

9. Medication?

Medications administered in the last month?

Pain medications (e.g., bute)?

Bleeder treatments (e.g., Lasix)?

Ulcer treatments (e.g., Gastro-gard)?

Joint injections?

Tendon injections?

Antibiotics?

Other?

Reason for treatment?

Problem(s)?

Swelling?

Lameness?

Pain?

Other?

10. Did you attend to the horse after injury? What were your findings, or those shared with you?

11. Did you have any concerns about the racing surface, in general or that day?

12. Reflecting, knowing what you know now, what would you have done differently in caring for and treating this horse, or client education?

**Questions unique to specific causes of death**:

Sudden Death:

Supplements, thyroxin, EIPH, poor performance, exercise intolerance/fatigue?

Deworming program, bloodwork abnormalities, recent attitude/behavior change?

Did the horse whinny or vocalize upon collapse?

Lumbar fracture:

Sire?

Ever locked up? Stifle/back issue? Hind end weakness/lameness.

How do they break from the gate? How do you train a horse to break from the gate (how soon do you start gate work and how often, what distance/speed do they go after breaking)?

**Report Summary:**

Horse Information: [name], \_-year-old Thoroughbred [gelding/colt/filly/mare], Tattoo \_\_\_, Microchip\_\_\_

Necropsy Summary:

[Example] A necropsy examination revealed biaxial proximal sesamoid bone fractures in the left front limb. Presence of pre-existing injury that likely predisposed to catastrophic proximal sesamoid bone fracture was evidenced by focal discoloration indicative of an osteopenic focus associated with the fracture of the medial proximal sesamoid bone.

Racing/Training History:

Veterinary History Summary:

Pre-race Examinations:

[Example] Pre-race examinations had noted exostosis and a decreased range of motion in both front fetlock joints…

Conclusion:

Respectfully Submitted,

-, DVM

-, Steward

-, Safety Steward

\_, 2022

**Continuing Education Modules:**

<https://horsemenu.mclms.net/en/>

<https://vorl.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/continuing-education>

**References** (not all possible references are listed**):**

Fetlock Proximal Sesamoid Bone Fractures

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Fetlock Suspensory Apparatus Injuries

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