



August 24, 2015

## **NYS Gaming Commission to host forum on August 25 to discuss the policy and practice of Lasix administration in New York State**

**Day-long summit at Empire State College in Saratoga Springs will discuss all facets of the controversial medication and include renowned academics and researchers from across the world, owners, trainers and industry leaders**

The New York State Gaming Commission will host a day-long forum to discuss the policy and practice of furosemide (Lasix) administration in New York State on Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at 10 a.m. at Empire State College in Saratoga Springs.

The forum was initially proposed by Commissioners John Crotty and Peter Moschetti at the [March 23, 2015 Commission Meeting](#).

“In recent years, no issue has been as divisive in Thoroughbred horse racing than race-day administration of Lasix,” said Commission Executive Director Robert Williams. “Considering limitations in administrations discussed in Kentucky and by the Breeders Cup, the Commissioners have called for an open, objective and informative dialogue to hear the most recent information and research relating to Lasix from parties on both sides of the issue.”

The Commission seeks guidance on the following questions at the forum:

- Is Lasix administration appropriate for the equine athlete?
- What should the Commission consider when evaluating present Lasix administration protocols? Should present medication protocols regarding Lasix be reconsidered?
- What does recent academic research illustrate regarding the utilization of Lasix for the equine athlete?
- What are recent developments in regulatory practice globally regarding Lasix administration?

The forum is free and open to the public. It will be held in room 143 at Empire State College’s campus located at 113 West Avenue in Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Tentative panels and participants:

**Video Presentation (10 – 10:10 a.m.):** Former Deputy Secretary for Racing and Gaming Bennett Liebman on the history of the use of Furosemide and previously permitted raceday meds in the U.S.

**“What does the most recent research indicate regarding Lasix administration for Thoroughbred racehorses? Is Lasix appropriately used now?” (10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.)**

- Moderated by NYS Gaming Commission Equine Medical Director Scott E. Palmer, VMD
- Paul Morley, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM, Colorado State University, Department of Clinical Sciences (*via video conference*)
- Corinne R. Sweeney, DVM, BS, New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania; American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (*via video conference*)

**“Veterinarians treating horses: Views on furosemide.” (11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.)**

- Moderated by NYS Gaming Commission Equine Medical Director Scott E. Palmer, VMD
- Jeff Blea, DVM, VonBluecher, Blea, Hunkin Inc., Equine Medicine and Surgery, Sierra Madre, CA; Immediate Past President, AAEP (*via teleconference*)
- Gregory L. Ferraro, DVM, UCal-Davis Veterinary School (*via teleconference*)
- Scott Hay, DVM, Teigland, Franklin and Brokken, DVMs, P.A.; Chair, AAEP Racing Committee (*via videoconference*)
- Foster Northrop, DVM, Northrop Equine, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission (*via teleconference*)
- Gary T. Priest, DVM, Harthill & Priest Equine Surgery, Versailles, KY (*via teleconference*)
- Christopher M. Riggs, MRCVS, Hong Kong Jockey Club (*via videoconference*)

**Break 1-2 pm**

**“The Choice for Trainers and Owners: Why do you use or not use Lasix?” (2-3 p.m.)**

- Moderated by NYS Gaming Commission Executive Director Robert Williams
- Mark Casse, Thoroughbred Trainer
- Gary Contessa, Thoroughbred Trainer
- Arthur Hancock, Thoroughbred Trainer (*via teleconference*)
- Maggie Moss, Thoroughbred Owner
- Jonathan E. Sheppard, Thoroughbred Trainer
- Richard A. Violette, Jr., Thoroughbred Trainer

**“Industry Leadership: What should the Commission consider?” (3-4 p.m.)**

- Alan Foreman, Chairman & CEO, Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Associations, Inc.
- Ed Martin, ARCI
- William A. Nader, Executive Director, Hong Kong Jockey Club (*via videoconference*)
- Alex Waldrop, NTRA

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