

SCOTT E. PALMER, VMD

Equine Medical Director

Equine Medical Advisory

New York State Gaming Commission

Office of Veterinary Affairs

One Broadway Center, P.O. Box 7500, Schenectady, NY 12305-7500

Office: 518-388-3300 | Cell: 518-441-7916 | Scott.Palmer@gaming.ny.gov

www.gaming.ny.gov

Thoroughbred Trainer Continuing Education

The New York State Gaming Commission has adopted a rule to require all Thoroughbred trainers and assistant trainers to obtain four hours of approved continuing education (“CE”) in a calendar year as a requirement for licensure. **This program will officially begin on January 1, 2017.**

The program is intended to bring knowledge and evidence-based research to an audience that would otherwise not benefit from it. CE for horse trainers will improve the quality of horsemanship at New York racetracks, enhance equine welfare, improve the business model of New York horse trainers and help provide New York racing fans with a progressive and sustainable quality racing program.

The requirement to obtain four hours of CE annually is based on the calendar year. It is not based upon the date of birth for license renewal.

However, as a matter of convenience to horsepersons, **any hours of CE obtained in December 2016 will be credited toward the four-hour requirement for 2017.** Thereafter, all hours of CE must be acquired within a given calendar year and there will be no provision for rolling extra hours into subsequent years.

Approved CE opportunities are currently available from multiple providers for New York horse trainers and assistant trainers to meet the four-hour yearly requirement:

- The Jockey Club Advanced Horsemanship Program currently offers five hours of free online CE modules available at <http://courses.Grayson-jockeyclub.org/course-index>. The Jockey Club modules can be completed at home at the convenience of the horsepersons and, considered alone, represent adequate hours of Thoroughbred CE to meet the initial four-hour annual requirement.
- The Commission will provide two hours of live CE at the start of each Thoroughbred race meet at New York racetracks (Aqueduct, Belmont, Saratoga and Finger Lakes).
- Any equine CE program provided by Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine or any other AVMA-accredited College of Veterinary Medicine will qualify automatically as approved CE for horsepersons.
- Continuing education programs approved by any other Thoroughbred racing commission in North America or the Association of Racing Commissioners International will also qualify for approval.

Except as noted above, all other non-Commission approved CE programs will need to submit the event program to the Commission, care of the New York State Equine Medical Director, for approval prior to hosting an event in order to ensure that the program will qualify for CE credit. Acceptable CE topics include, without limitation, equine welfare, health and safety, ethics and business management.

Sign-in sheets at live Commission CE events will be used to document participation. The Jockey Club will report electronically completion of Jockey Club Advanced Horsemanship CE Modules directly to the Commission. Attendees of live CE events sponsored by the Commission also will be provided a certificate of attendance.

A CE certificate that may be used to document attendance at non-Commission CE events may be downloaded here: www.gaming.ny.gov/pdf/Postings/CECertificateForm.pdf. These certificates serve as a record of attendance. **Horsepersons must notify the Commission of attendance at CE events by sending an email containing a completed downloaded Commission CE certificate to ContinuingEd@gaming.ny.gov.** Hard copies should NOT be sent to the Commission. A licensee should keep hard copies of the CE certificates on file in a secure location for a period of three years.

A centralized electronic national tracking system is currently under development by the Association of Racing Commissioners International so that in the future, approved CE participation in any jurisdiction may be recorded and shared with any North American racing jurisdiction with a requirement for trainer CE.

Compliance with this regulation will be enforced strictly through the licensing process. Any trainer or assistant trainer who is not in compliance with this regulation will be issued a valid receipt (not a license renewal) at the time of license renewal with a condition for licensure that includes a deadline for completion of the CE requirement. Failure to meet this deadline may result in an immediate suspension of the license until such time that the CE requirement is met.

If you have any questions regarding the CE requirement or the administrative details of this program, please do not hesitate to contact me, using the information provided above.

Sincerely,

Scott E. Palmer

Scott E. Palmer, V.M.D., Dipl. A.B.V.P., Eq. Practice
New York State Gaming Commission Equine Medical Director