Horse-Racing Scenes (Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, Mule, Arabian, Steeplechasing, Harness and Hurdling, Chariot Racing, etc.)

ADVISORY: When staging racing scenes or collaborating with existing racetracks to procure racing scenes for a film, production must, at a minimum, comply with the “Welfare Guidelines for Horseracing” from the International Group of Specialist Racing Veterinarians (IGSRV), which are reflected in the following Guidelines. When filming pre-existing, regularly scheduled racing events in order to include such footage in a film production, filmmakers must select racetracks that, at a minimum, comply with these Guidelines. The following Guidelines have been modified to include references to filming and to create consistency with American Humane Association’s Guidelines.

ADVISORY: Please be advised that should any Guideline compliance or requested documentation (veterinary, medical and/or training records) be delayed and/or unavailable, American Humane Association may recommend to Production that the horse(s) in question be removed from further work until these provisions are satisfied.

Definitions:
- **Regulatory Veterinarian** - A veterinarian employed by a governmental agency or body charged with enforcing veterinary regulations.
- **Horse Racing Board** – The Official governing body regulating horse racing activities within each state, province, or county. (Sometimes referred to as a “commission.”)
- **Declared and prohibited substances for use in horse racing** – Substances that state horse racing board’s and/or commissions have ruled cannot be used in horse racing, or may be limited in use.
- **Vet List** – Refers to the listing of horses not approved for racing by state horse racing boards/commissions.

8-137 ...... For scenes depicting horse racing, only experienced, trained and conditioned animals shall be used. American Humane Association reserves the right, for the well-being of the animals, to remove any animals that are not trained, prepared and conditioned to perform the required animal action. This shall include the acclimation and training of horses around the use of camera equipment, insert cars, and any other equipment associated with horse racing (such as starting gates, etc.) and/or filming (such as cranes and sound booms). Please see American Humane Association’s Guidelines for Insert Vehicles which are located in Chapter 5, “Location and Set Safety” and the Advisory for Use of Insert Vehicles around Animals.
  a. Mares that are known to be pregnant shall not participate in racing scenes.
  b. No horse under the age of 4 years shall participate in horse-racing scenes.
c. All horses must submit to, and pass, a medical exam as outlined in the Guidelines for Horse Racing.

d. American Humane Association suggests a minimum of thirty (30) days of prep work to acclimate working race horses. This prep work/acclimation shall include track, starting gates, and with all aforementioned equipment related to filming.

e. All horses should be tested for these skills and evaluated as to needed prep, training, and acclimation prior to being utilized for filming.

f. Only trained movie horses shall be used for stunt work.

g. Prior approval from American Humane Association is required prior to mixing/substituting race horses and movie trained horses.

8-137.1 ... When finished filming (wrapped from the production), the trainer must acquire written assurance, signed by the owner of the horse that the horse was returned to the owner from whom the horse was leased.

8-137.2 ... Horses used for filming horse racing scenes shall only work for the production and are not allowed to race or participate in strenuous activity not connected with the production. Horses that participate in “off-production” racing or strenuous activity shall have seven (7) days off since their last race to ensure appropriate recovery time.

8-137.3 .. American Humane Association’s Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)™ shall be present at all production meetings, and, for all prep work and training of all horses that will be used in filming horse racing scenes. It is production’s responsibility to notify American Humane Association in advance of the schedule, including dates and times of production meetings, prep work, and training of horses.

8-138 ...... For scenes depicting horse racing, an experienced animal handler and/or licensed racehorse trainer shall be used.

8-139 ...... In the event of an accident or injury, jockeys and/or drivers will dismount, and the animal will be collected by ambulance whenever necessary. (Also see Chapter 2, Veterinary Guidelines.)

8-140 ...... A veterinarian specialized in treating racehorses will be on set at all times when filming racing scenes. An animal ambulance shall also be on standby for use, if necessary.

8-141 ...... Prior to use, a veterinarian shall examine all horses to be used in racing scenes and review the prior racing and medical history of each animal (if available) and provide documentation to American Humane Association upon request. Diagnostic testing or imaging may be obtained upon request of the Regulatory Veterinarian and in mutual agreement of American Humane Association and the production based on the need to clarify questionable issues and concerns. Horses shall not be used if the following exists:

a. All horses utilized should have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 4-5, which is typical lean body condition for a race horse. (See Guideline 1-8.)

b. Horses showing signs of lameness, disease, or illness, or any other medical condition shall not be used.

c. Horses that fail to pass a complete physical examination, including flexion tests and palpations of soft tissues.
d. Horses demonstrating lameness equal or greater to Obel grade 2/5 or who are positive to joint flexion, or flexor tendon palpations.
e. Horses with a temperature over 101.0.
f. Nasal discharge.
g. Cough or diarrhea.
h. Are currently on any Horse Racing Board “Vet List.”
i. Are registered as a bleeder with any state horse racing board and were not scoped after their last race.
j. All horses used for filming racing scenes must submit to a standing endoscopy. The results must be dated within thirty (30) days of use in filming racing scenes. The results must state that the horse is free from any pathology or abnormalities that would affect performance as an athlete.
k. Race horses are required to have seven (7) days off since their last race to ensure appropriate recovery time.
l. Horse is found to be pregnant.
m. Horse is found to be under 4 years of age.

8-141.1 ... Productions are required to keep a detailed medical file on each horse participating in horse racing scenes. All medications must be declared and registered with American Humane Association and the veterinarian and logged daily in the horse’s medical file. The medical file should include the following:
   a. The date, time, dosage, and person administering any medications along with the name and contact information of the prescribing veterinarian.
   b. Medical exams of each horse shall be performed daily, in the morning and after exercising or working. The horse’s temperature shall be taken twice a day. All exams should be documented in the horse’s medical file indicating the date, time, findings, and the name and contact information of the examiner.
   c. A copy of Negative toxicology screen for sedatives, NSAIDS, Corticosteroids, and anabolic steroids shall be kept in each horse’s medical file.

8-141.2 ... All horses participating in horse racing scenes shall be micro-chipped. American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)” shall be present to oversee the micro-chipping of all horses. Production shall ensure that American Humane Association Animal Safety Representative(s)” have access to a universal scanner.

8-142 ... No drugs in system of any horse used for racing scenes. Drugs do not take the place of rest, conditioning, and training of the animal. Drugs, including anesthetics, sedatives and chemical laxatives may not be administered to an animal for the purpose of filmmaking. Any horse with a positive drug test shall be permanently wrapped from all production activities. The main purpose of controlling medication is to protect the welfare of the animal and the safety of the rider or driver.
a. No horse requiring the drug Furosemide (Lasix) or any similar drug, or any horse diagnosed with exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH) shall be used. (See Guidelines 8-141 h & i.) Any nasal bleeding post filming shall be documented, and, the horse shall not be utilized for use in filming racing scenes. With prior approval from American Humane Association, those horses may be approved for use in mild action.

b. No drug shall be allowed that affects the performance of the horse or conceals any defects, lameness, or illness.

c. No animal that has been surgically or chemically nerve-blocked shall be allowed to participate in scenes depicting any type of horse racing.

d. No horse that has been treated with shock wave therapy within 10 days prior shall be allowed to participate in scenes depicting any type of horse racing.

8-142.1 ... American Humane Association and/or the Regulatory Veterinarian may, at any time, request blood and/or urine sampling for suspected drugs. Any horse suspected of having unapproved drugs in its system shall be suspended from use until the lab results are delivered. Any horse with a positive drug test shall be permanently wrapped from all production activities. American Humane Association shall oversee blood and/or urine sampling. The microchip of the horse shall be scanned and the number applied to the blood/urine sample tubes. All samples taken shall be delivered to the lab by American Humane Association.

8-142.2 ... All medical treatment should be declared to American Humane Association in a signed form including date, time, route of administration, and dosage, and, logged into the horse’s medical record. Medications include, but are not limited to, Phenylbutazone, Flunixin, Ketoprofen, Diclofenic acid (surpass), Dexamethasone, antibioidics, ulcer medications, etc. (See California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) list of declared and prohibited substances for reference.)

a. Administration of declared drugs must be suspended at least 72 hours before the horse is utilized for filming.

b. If the horse must remain on the declared medication, it should not work, and, remain in treatment until the horse is well and has been approved for work by American Humane Association.

8-143 ...... (# reserved – original content is now part of Guideline 8-141.)
8-144 ...... (# reserved – original content is now part of Guideline 8-141.)
8-145 ...... (# reserved – original content is now part of Guideline 8-141.)
8-146 ...... When filming racing scenes, an adequate number of horses shall be on hand for use as backup animals. Horse racing puts great stress on the cardiovascular and musculoskeletal system of a horse.

8-146.1 ... All horses shall receive adequate warm up and proper cool down to prevent the development of musculoskeletal and cardiovascular concerns. A detailed description of each warm up and cool down should be noted in the trainer’s schedule on the barn spread sheet.
8-147 ...... American Humane Association shall be notified prior to filming and must approve the racing schedule.
   a. 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 Association and in discussion with the Regulatory Veterinarian.
   b. Horse runs shall be no longer than 3/8ths of a mile at speeds no greater than 13 seconds per furlong, or 15 meters per second.
   c. Approval will depend on the distance to be run in each take, the frequency of runs, the track surface, the individual horse (age, health history), weight to be carried, and environmental conditions such as heat, cold, and rain.
   d. In the case of steeplechase or hurdling racing, the number, size and design of fences should be carefully assessed.
   e. Horses participating in the filming of horse racing scenes shall not be utilized for ANY outside racing or strenuous activity. Horses shall have seven (7) days off since their last race to ensure appropriate recovery time.

8-148 ...... Horse-racing scenes must be staged to prevent animals from being overworked. The animal handler must have in place a racing schedule for each animal that takes into consideration the distance to be run and the number of takes. Preventing animals from being overworked can be accomplished in the following ways:
   a. American Humane Association recommends that productions be proactive when choosing times or seasons in which to film animals. It is not recommended to film in the hottest or coldest times of the year/day in areas where heat or cold may become an animal-safety issue.
   b. If animals do not return to a normal resting respiration within a reasonable amount of time, they should be removed and not allowed to run again.
   c. Maintain a sufficient supply of ice and water at the filming location to be used to cool horses.
   d. Film these scenes in early morning or late afternoon, when temperatures are lower, during times of extreme heat. American Humane Association recommends that all racing scenes be filmed in the hours before 11:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. during periods of excessive heat.
   e. Provide animals with protection from direct sun by providing shade.
   f. Limit rehearsals and takes as stated in Guideline 8-147 above to no longer than 3/8ths of a mile at speeds no greater than 13 seconds per furlong or 15 meters per second and to 2 starts per day traveling ¼ mile from the gate and 2 minutes of full gallop per week.
   g. Provide sufficient rest periods between takes and rehearsals.
   h. Provide a sufficient supply of backup animals so the animals can be rotated.
   i. Have an adequate number of animal handlers available to provide cooling or warming to animals.
**ADVISORY:** During periods of extreme heat, consideration should be
given that the temperature on the track may be much higher than the air
temperature, due to the reflective nature of track surfaces.

American Humane Association’s *Guidelines for Horse/Livestock Stunts
and Strenuous Equine Action* (which appear earlier in this chapter) shall
apply common sense should be used when racing in extreme weather.
Provisions shall be made to cool horses soon after racing in hot/humid
conditions. American Humane Association considers any temperature
above 80 degrees Fahrenheit with humidity as dangerous to an animal
participating in strenuous activity. Horses used in racing during cold
weather should be moved indoors as soon as possible.

8-149...... The housing, feeding, training and racing of horses should be compatible
with good horsemanship and should not compromise their welfare. Any
practices that cause physical or mental suffering, whether in the stables or
during training or racing, will not be tolerated. All horses shall be properly
groomed. (See Guideline 8-70.)

8-149.1 ... No ring bits shall be used as a substitute for training or to control horses.
(See Guideline 8-68.) The use of ring bits shall be approved, in advance,
by American Humane Association and, will be based on the horse, animal
handler/groom, rider, and action being planned.

8-149.2 ... Horses shall not be subjected to the use of a lip chain except under
the explicit supervision of American Humane Association and/or the
Regulatory Veterinarian when the safety of the horse or handler is at risk.

8-149.3 ... Horses should be trimmed/shod appropriately for the action required.
(See Guideline 8-67.) Any horse that shows signs of soreness or tenderness
after being shod must not be used until tenderness subsides.

8-149.4 ... Productions shall be responsible to keep the following information in the
form of a spread sheet:
  a. Horse’s name, Barn Name (nickname), tattoo number, age (actual birth
date), gender.
  b. Trainer’s Name, Owner’s Name, primary groom's name, and all contact
     information.
  c. Dates of last EHV (within 3 months of production), WNV and Tetanus
     vaccination (within 12 months of production).
  d. Daily training and feeding schedule (includes exercise regime of the
     horse in between production days, including approximate warm-up,
breezing and cool down times.
  e. Shoeing Chart: Date last shod and type of shoes.
8-149.5... Production shall provide 24-Hour security at all barns and stabling of horses. Production shall keep a sign in and sign out sheet for anyone entering the barns or stabling area. The sign in/out sheet shall contain the following information for each and every individual entering the barn/stables:

a. Name and contact information of individual entering the barn/stable.
b. Time entering the barn/stable.
c. The reason for entry.
d. The time exiting the barn/stable.

8-149.6... Horses shall not leave the premises, except for transport for emergency veterinary care, during the duration of the film project.

8-150...... Track Bandages, leg wraps, and rundowns shall only be applied by qualified individuals and must be approved by the Regulatory Veterinarian.

8-151 ..... American Humane Association does not condone the use of whips on horses. Whips may be used as props, and the desired visual effect may be accomplished by simulating the action. At no time shall an animal be whipped to run faster. American Humane Association Certified Animal Safety Representative(s)™ shall check each animal after each take for post-racing whip welts.

8-152 ...... The use of electric stimulation devices such as prods or pocket prods, or other similar devices, is not permitted by American Humane Association. The use of any nail, tack, screw or other sharp object for training or prodding an animal is prohibited.

ADVISORY: In some areas, the use of prods and other electric stimulation devices is prohibited*.

8-153 ...... American Humane Association encourages the use of horses that have been trained to load easily into starting gates. All horses to be utilized in conjunction with starting gates shall be approved by the appropriate State Horse Racing Board starter. Documentation of approval must be provided before any horse is utilized in or around a starting gate.

a. Horses shall be trained, prepared and conditioned with loading procedures so they may load quietly and calmly.
b. Any horse that is excessively excited in starting gates shall be immediately removed and not used again.
c. Barriers should be properly designed and safe.
d. Methods used to load horses into starting gates should be limited to encouraging the animal without causing harm or fear.
e. Experienced, trained personnel shall be used to operate starting gates.
f. Starting gates shall be inspected prior to use to ensure that they are in good working order.

8-153.1 ... Racetracks and racing surfaces should be designed and maintained to reduce the risk of injury. Particular attention shall be paid to crossings, uneven racing surfaces and extremes in surface quality.

8-153.2 ... Participation in steeplechasing and hurdling shall be restricted to horses with demonstrated jumping ability.

* Notes a federal, state or local animal welfare statute, code or permit consideration.

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