

Celebrating 10 years



**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Blackwell, DVM, MPH
Knoxville, TN

Gary Block, DVM, MS, DACVIM
East Greenwich, RI

Barry Kellogg, VMD
North Port, FL

Barry Kipperman, DVM,
DACVIM, MSc
San Ramon, CA

Paula Kislak, DVM
Santa Barbara, CA

Nicole Paquette, JD
Washington, DC

Gwendy Reyes-Illg, DVM
Morganton, GA

Meredith Rives, DVM
Evanston, IL

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Holly Cheever, DVM
Voorheesville, NY

Nicholas Dodman, BVMS,
MRCVS, DACVB
Grafton, MA

Leo Egar, VMD
Phoenix, AZ

Brian Forsgren, DVM
Cleveland, OH

Brenda Forsythe, MS, Ph.D., DVM
Guadalupe, CA

Madeline Graham, DVM
Los Angeles, CA

Zarah Hedge, DVM, MPH,
DACVPM, DABVP
San Diego, CA

Joann Lindenmayer, DVM, MPH
North Grafton, MA

Andrea Looney, DVM, DACVA
Chesterfield, MA

Katy Nelson, DVM
Alexandria, VA

Jeff Newman, DVM
Fairfax Station, VA

Erin Spencer, M.Ed., CVT,
VTS (ECC)
Derry, NH

Gordon B. Stull, VMD
Vincetown, NJ

Liz White, RVT
Woodland Hills, CA

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association

January 15, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Janice Schakowsky
Chairwoman
Subcommittee Consumer Protection
& Commerce
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee Consumer Protection
& Commerce
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Veterinary Support for H.R. 1754/S. 1820, the Horseracing Integrity Act

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairwoman Schakowsky and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) and our 8,500 veterinary professional members nationwide, we are writing in support of H.R. 1754/S. 1820, the Horseracing Integrity Act. This bill would end the dangerous practice of using race-day medications in horses, create a uniform medication policy for all 38 racing jurisdictions in the United States, and substantially increase drug testing for racehorses.

Doping remains a serious problem in the horseracing industry. This is not surprising since the practice is still permitted by law. Abuses of both legal and illegal substances have contributed to increasing racehorse breakdowns and deadly accidents. A shocking statistic is that there are 1.61 fatal racing injuries per 1,000 starts at racetracks in the United States, according to the Jockey Club.

The Horseracing Integrity Act would designate the non-governmental U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) as the independent anti-doping authority for horse races. This is the same agency working with the U.S. Olympics and various sports leagues to emphasize clean competition.

The USADA would develop a set of rules pertaining to horseracing that would govern prohibited substances and put forth guidelines for the use of permitted ones. The agency would also implement anti-doping education, testing and

Celebrating 10 years



**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.**

adjudication of alleged violations. Rules violators would risk exclusion from interstate horseracing; the worst offenders could potentially receive lifetime bans.

As veterinary professionals, we consider these measures essential to ending the rampant misuse of controlled substances and critical to protecting the health and welfare of racehorses. We strongly encourage your support for this commonsense animal protection bill.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this key federal legislation, safeguarding the health and welfare of U.S. racing horses.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA
HSVMA Director of Advocacy & Outreach

Holly Cheever, DVM
HSVMA Leadership Council Member

Gail Hansen, DVM, MPH
HSVMA District of Columbia Representative

Patricia Zinna, DVM, MS
HSVMA New Jersey Representative

Kate Maher, DVM
HSVMA Louisiana Representative

David Stansfield, BVSc, MRCVS
HSVMA North Carolina Representative

Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, DACVB, DACVAA
HSVMA Massachusetts & Maryland Rep

Pamela Greenwald, DVM, MS
HSVMA Michigan Representative