



# FROM REFORM TO RESULTS: ADVANCING EQUINE WELFARE IN U.S. THOROUGHBRED RACING

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HORSERACING INTEGRITY AND SAFETY AUTHORITY

FEBRUARY 12, 2026



نادي سباقات الخيل  
JOCKEY CLUB OF SAUDI ARABIA

# HISA's technology in action



HORSERACING  
INTEGRITY  
AND SAFETY  
AUTHORITY

# HISA: THE BEGINNING

**December 21, 2020**

Congress passed the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act.

## **The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority**

- U A private, independent organization subject to oversight from the Federal Trade Commission
- U Responsible for developing and enforcing national, uniform safety and integrity rules
- U Programs
  - U Racetrack Safety Program: 2022
  - U Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program: 2023



# HISA PROGRAMS

## Racetrack Safety Program

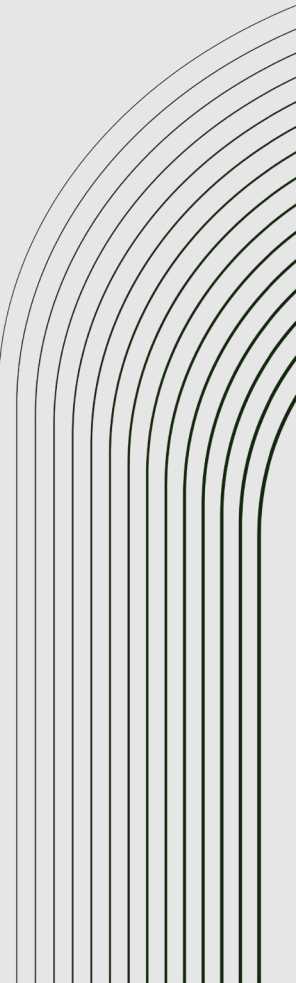
- U Went into effect on July 1, 2022
- U Includes operational safety rules and national racetrack accreditation standards that seek to enhance equine welfare and minimize equine and jockey injury
- U Creates an ecosystem of care for horses and riders and elevates jockey needs to the status of other professional athletes

## Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program

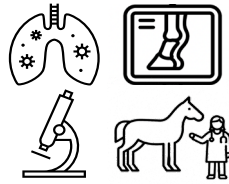
- U Went into effect on May 22, 2023
- U Implements a centralized testing and results management process and applies uniform penalties for integrity violations efficiently and consistently across the United States
- U Administered by the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit



# **RACETRACK SAFETY PROGRAM**



### Diagnostics:



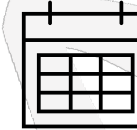
- U Imaging (x-rays, endoscopy)
- U Blood Test (ADMC, infections)
- U Mandatory Vet Inspections
- U Work Offs
- U Pre-Race Exams

### Treatments:



- U Maintenance (deworming, floating)
- U Regulatory Compliance (vaccines)
- U Corrective Procedures (surgeries)
- U Restorative Care (IA's)

### Events:



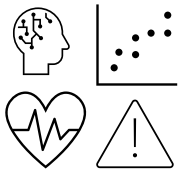
- U Birth, Retirement, Death
- U On Vets' List, Off Vets' List
- U Can Work, Can Race
- U Switched Trainers, Claimed, Sold
- U Registered
- U Stood down, Layoff

### People:



- U Ownership LLC
- U Designated Owner
- U Responsible Person
- U Vet (reg, attending)
- U Jockey
- U Can Race, Suspended, Fines Owed

### Risk Pattern:



- U HISA CHECK/
- U HISA Horse In-Sight
- U Lineage Map
- U Trainer, Owner, Vet Map



### Location:



- U Racetrack, training track
- U Vanning from A to B
- U Which barn
- U Race and Return
- U Accreditation Status

### Furlongs:

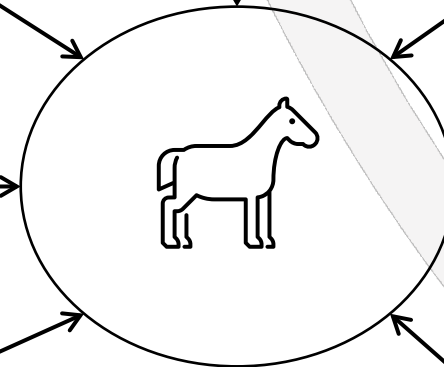


- U Covered Race
- U Published Work (type, length)
- U Exercise (length, type)
- U Non-Covered Race (length)
- U Surface (quality, condition)

### Races:

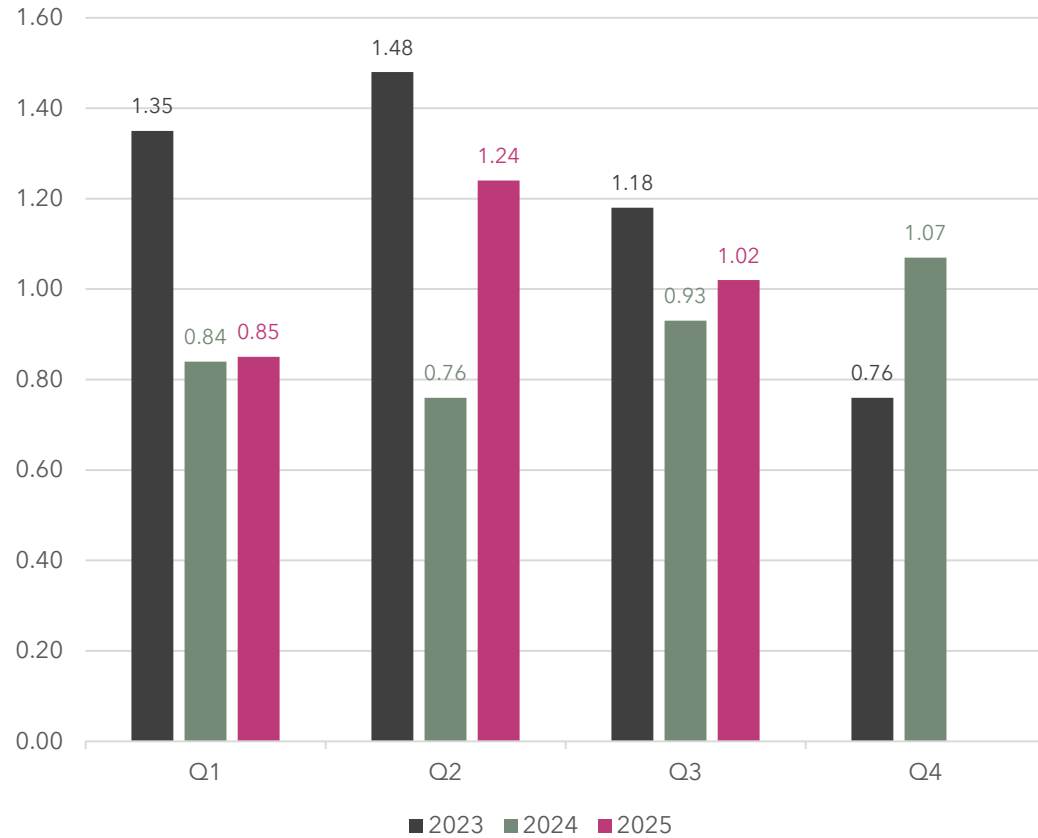


- U Entries "race didn't go"
- U Entries
- U Scratches (vet, trainer, surface change)
- U Results
- U Performance
- U Class

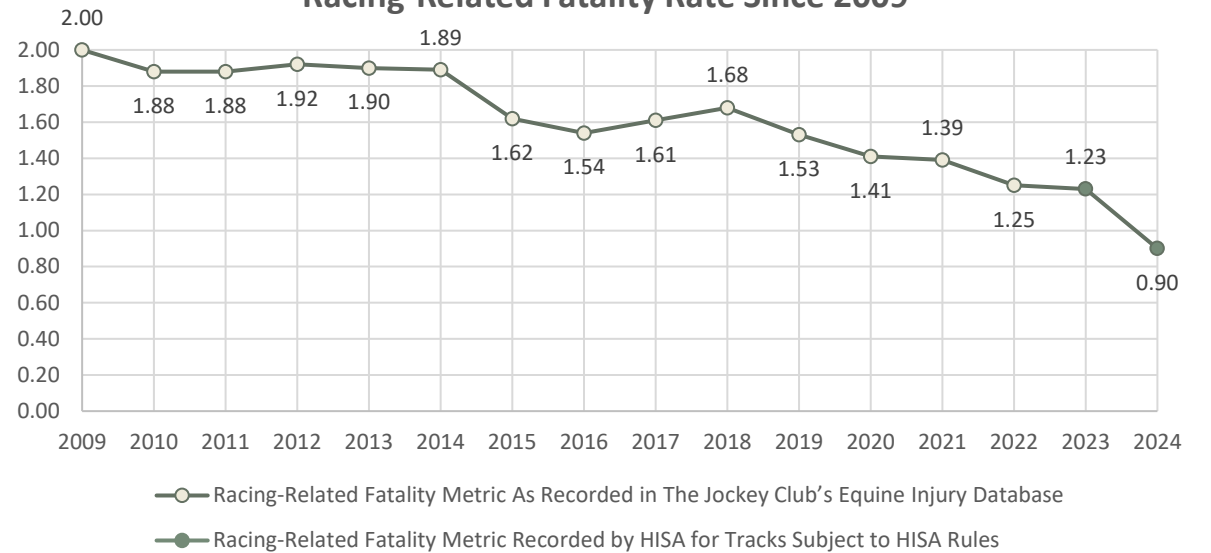


# RACING-RELATED EQUINE FATALITIES

## Racing-Related Equine Fatality Rates



## Racing-Related Fatality Rate Since 2009



# RACING-RELATED EQUINE FATALITIES



EF-001 | **EF-002** | EF-003 | OPS-001 | OPS-002

**Racing Fatalities** ⚙️ ↗️ ⋮

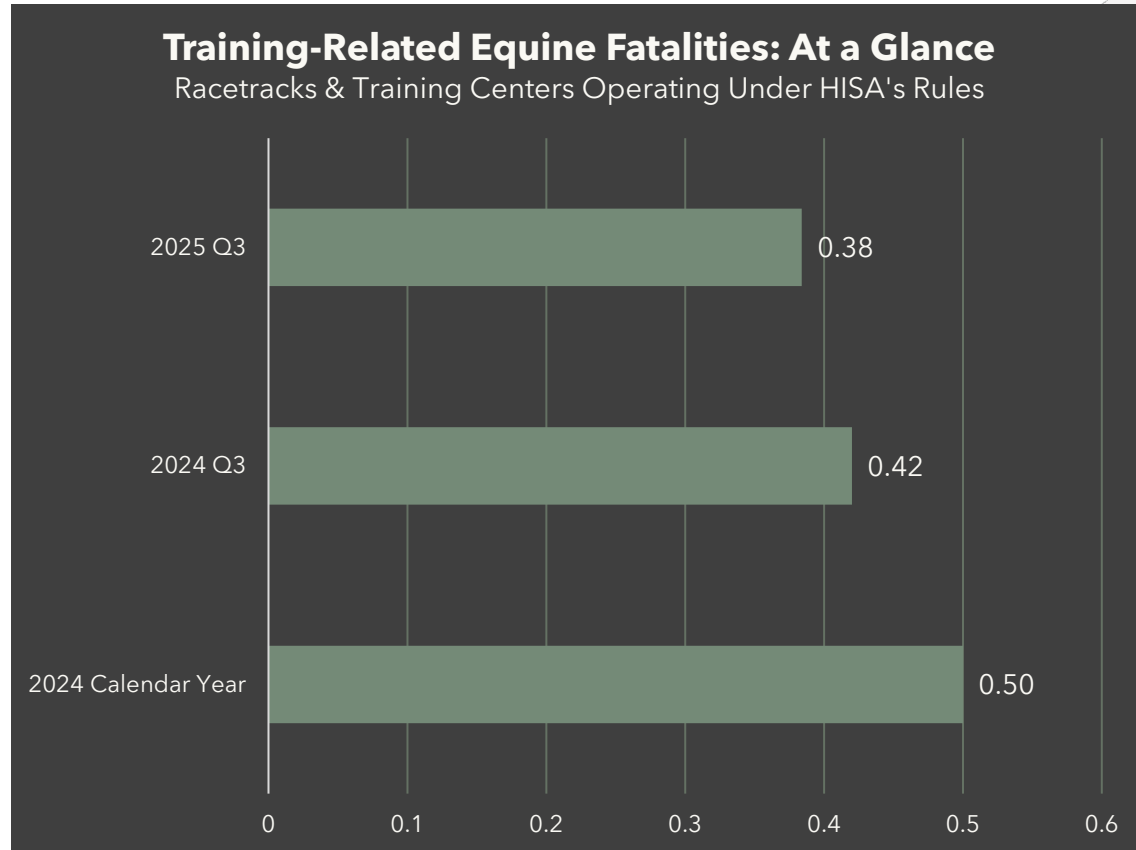
Year > Qtr > Month

Rows	2024			Q1' 2024			Q2' 2024			Q3' 2024			Q4' 2024		
	Starts	Fatalities	per Start	Starts	Fatalities	per Start	Starts	Fatalities	per Start	Starts	Fatalities	per Start	Starts	Fatalities	per Start
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,052</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>46,082</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>53,799</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>41,959</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1.07</b>			
<b>IA</b>				<b>1,381</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.90</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.46</b>						
Prairie Meadows (L000000002)				1,381	4	2.90	2,181	1	0.46						
<b>IL</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.83</b>			
Fairmount Park (L000000082)				1,016	2	1.97	1,211	1	0.83	731	2	2.74			
Hawthorne (L000000050)	276	0	0.00	1,659	2	1.21	1,634	1	0.61	362	0	0.00			
<b>IN</b>				<b>2,521</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,065</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>2,016</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.50</b>			
Horseshoe Indianapolis (L000000055)				2,521	0	0.00	3,065	1	0.33	2,016	1	0.50			
<b>KY</b>	<b>4,057</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>4,738</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>3,883</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>5,247</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1.52</b>			
Churchill Downs (L000000069)				3,432	2	0.58	1,118	0	0.00	2,247	4	1.78			
Ellis Park (L000000049)							1,937	2	1.03						
Keeneland (L000000054)				1,306	1	0.77				1,544	2	1.30			
Kentucky Downs (L000000064)								828	0	0.00					
Turfway Park (L000000072)	4,057	2	0.49							1,456	2	1.37			
<b>MD</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>2,861</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>3,130</b>					
Pimlico Race Course (L000000005)	2,286	3	1.31	2,861	0	0.00	2,528	1	0.40	3,130					

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# TRAINING-RELATED EQUINE FATALITIES



Training-related fatalities are down:  
**10%** from the same period last year.  
**24%** from the 2024 calendar year.

Data also captures horses who sustain fatal injuries while exercising outside of official workouts.

HISA does not have data to include those exercise activities in the denominator.

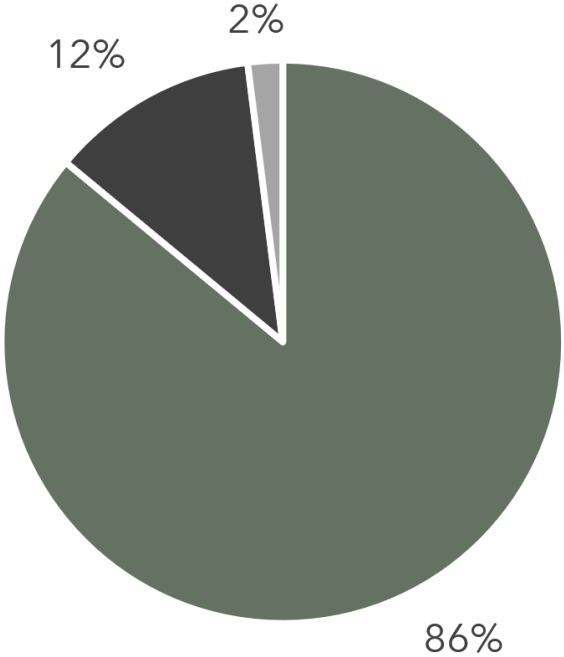
This number is conservative—*they are likely even lower.*



# FATALITY SUBCLASSIFICATIONS

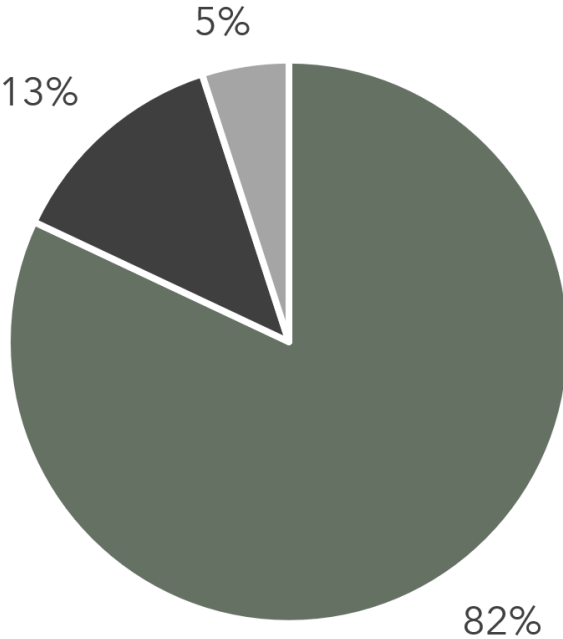
THIRD QUARTER 2025

### Cause of Racing-Related Fatality



■ Musculoskeletal ■ Sudden Death ■ Other

### Cause of Training-Related Fatality



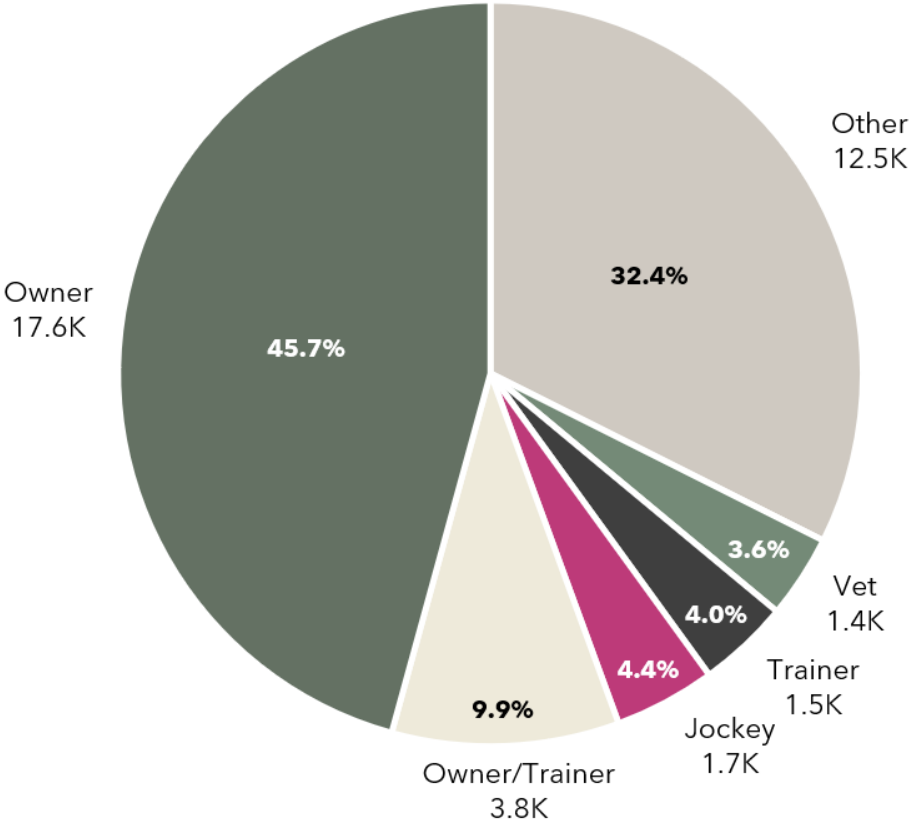
■ Musculoskeletal ■ Sudden Death ■ Other



# A SOPHISTICATED AND VERSATILE ONLINE PORTAL

## DATA COLLECTION

### Covered Persons Registered with HISA



### People Registrations

Total Covered Persons Registered

38,591

Covered Persons Registered in the Quarter

637

Q3' 2025

Q2' 2025 872 ▼ -26.95%

### Horse Registrations

Total Horses Registered

91,686

Horses Registered in the Quarter

6,554

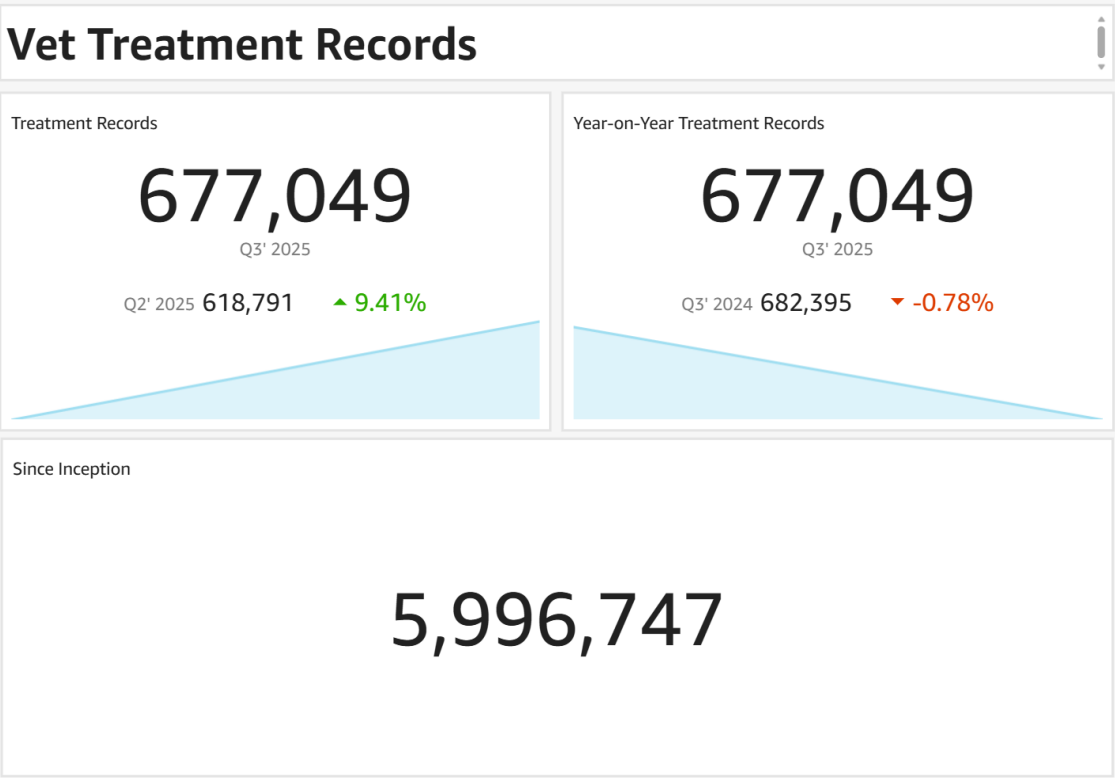
Q3' 2025

Q2' 2025 5,833 ▲ 12.36%



# A SOPHISTICATED AND VERSATILE ONLINE PORTAL

## DATA COLLECTION



HISA receives approximately **7,000** veterinary treatment records per day.

Treatment and Vets' List histories are available to owners, trainers and vets.

All users can view Vets' List entries for Unsoundness and Epistaxis for the past 365 days.

Responsible Persons can sign in and view horse treatment records even after horses retire.



# HISA HORSE IN-SIGHT

- U Comprehensive image of a horse's performance and exercise record, treatment records and risk scores
- U Utilized by Regulatory Veterinarians for:
  - U Post-entry screening
  - U Veterinarians' List workouts
  - U After an injury
  - U During mortality reviews
  - U Determining if a horse is fit to work or race



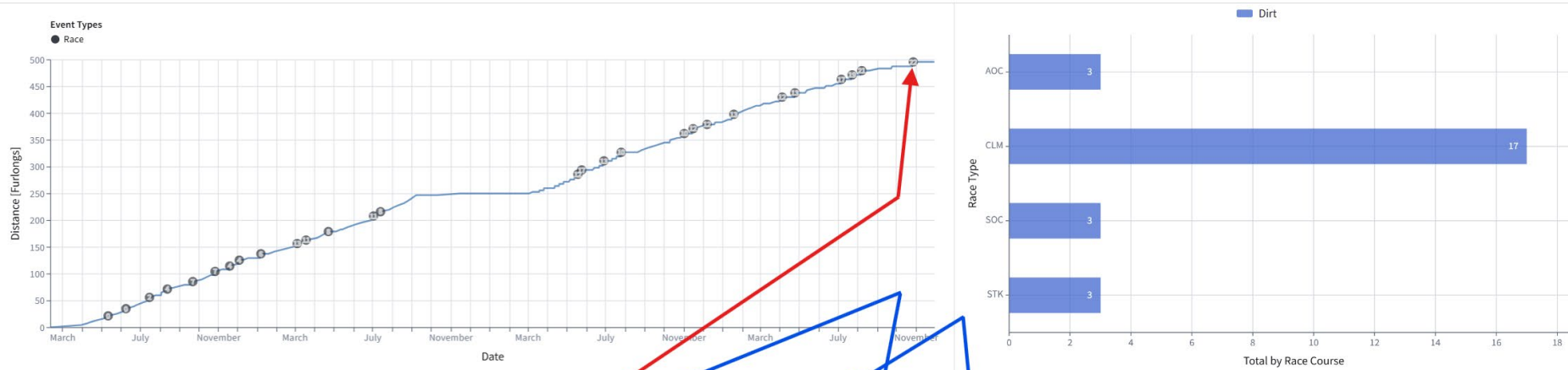
# HISA CHECK✓

- U Generated prediction model for adverse outcomes in a race
- U Assigns each horse a risk number
- U The higher the risk factor, the more likely a horse is to experience a bad outcome in a race
- U Folded into HISA Horse In-Sight and utilized as post-entry screening tool
- U Risk factors:
  - U Treatment records
  - U Veterinarians' List records
  - U High-speed furlong patterns
  - U Responsible Person changes
  - U Location changes
  - U Risk factor trending



# HISA CHECK ✓

## INTEGRATED INTO HISA HORSE IN-SIGHT



Vet History		Race		Workout		Layoffs		Placement		Performance		Trainer		
Race Date	Scratch	Track	Race Number	Race Outcome	HISA ✓	Veterinary History	Race Campaign	Workout	Layoffs	Placement	Performance	Voided Claim	Race Class	Course Type
Oct 28, 2025	—	PRX	10	LUP, VLST	Triggers 22 ▲ 22%	1VL, 1VM, 1VU, IA60, HIA, HVI, HVM, HVO, HVU, MVU, ...		GIW, NW, TFR, TWB, W30, SW	LOM	CD, CDG	RL	Y	5	Dirt
Aug 8, 2025	—	SAR	04	VLST	Triggers 21 ▲ 18%	1VL, 1VU, IA30, IA60, HIA, HVI, HVM, HVO, HVU, MVU, ...	QT, SR	GIW, NW, TFR, TWB, W30, SW				Y	6	Dirt
Jul 24, 2025	—	PRX	08		Triggers 19 ▲ 13%	1VL, 1VM, IA30, IA60, HIA, HVI, HVM, HVO, HVU, MVU, ...	SR	NW, TFR, TWB, SW				N	5	Dirt
Jul 7, 2025	—	PRX	06		Triggers 17 ▲ 11%	1VL, HIA, HVI, HVM, HVO, HVU, MVU, CORT		GIW, TFR, SW	LOM	CD, CDC, CDG		N	5	Dirt
Apr 25, 2025	—	AQU, BA Q	04		Triggers 13 ▲ 5%	1VL, HIA, HVI, HVM, HVU, MVU, CORT		NW, TFR, TWB, SW				N	6	Dirt
Apr 5, 2025	—	AQU, BA Q	04		Triggers 12 ▼ 1%	HIA, HVM, HVU, MVU, CORT		TFR, SW	LOM	CD, CDG, CDM		N	5	Dirt
Jan 19, 2025	—	AQU, BA Q	06	INJD, VLST	Triggers 13 ▼ 5%	1VL, 1VU, HIA, HVM, HVU, MVU, CORT		GIW, SW		OM	PE	N	8	Dirt
Dec 8, 2024	—	AQU, BA Q	05		Triggers 12 ▼ 6%	HIA, HVM, HVU, CORT		NW, NWB, TWB, W30, SW				N	6	Dirt

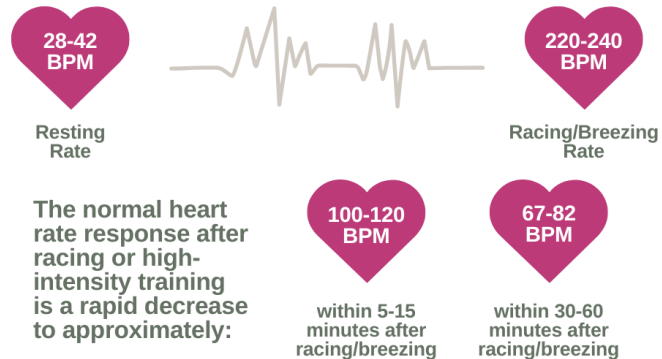


# EQUINE HEALTH ADVISORIES

- Utilize data to identify trends and patterns
- QC'ed and compared to a control group
- Draw conclusions
- Distribute to all Covered Persons and the press

## RACEHORSE HEART RATES

beats per minute (BPM)



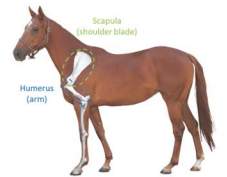
**Sustained post-exercise heart rates higher than 150 BPM at any time, heart rates over 120 BPM 30 minutes after maximal exercise or 100 BPM 60 minutes after maximal exercise are of concern and warrant monitoring by a veterinarian.**



## Proximal Forelimb (“Shoulder”) Fractures in Thoroughbreds



Fatal proximal forelimb (“shoulder”) fractures occur in horses that have a stress fracture in the humerus or scapula. These fractures are most likely to occur in horses:



- Just beginning training
- Soon after returning to training following a layup.

**40** fatal humeral and scapular fractures were reported by regulatory vets in 2024, approximately 15% of training fatalities from Covered racetracks.

**40%** of horses with fatal proximal forelimb fractures reported to HISA had NO high-speed furlongs recorded within the 60 days prior to the fracture.

**12.3** average number of highspeed furlongs recorded by horses in the 60 days prior to sustaining a fatal proximal forelimb fracture.

**5.9** average number of highspeed furlongs recorded by horses in the 60 days prior to sustaining a fatal humeral fracture.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

#### Trainers

Be cautious with horses entering training and demonstrating acute forelimb lameness following exercise. Call your attending veterinarian if you or your exercise riders observe forelimb lameness in a horse in this stage of training.

#### Attending Vets

Include humeral or scapular stress fracture in list of differential diagnoses when evaluating horses beginning or returning to training after a layoff.

### WHAT HISA IS DOING

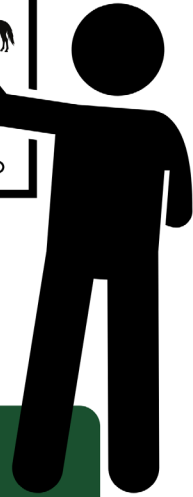
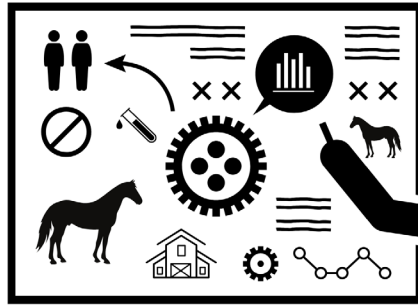
To help better understand the difference between horses that experience proximal forelimb fracture and horses that don't, HISA will be looking closely at exercise history and may reach out to trainers with a brief survey to request additional information about conditioning and rehabilitation regimens prior to arriving or returning to the racetrack.

#### LEARN MORE ABOUT FRACTURES AND LAYOFFS



# ADMC PROGRAM





What does HIWU consider in the Test Distribution Plan?

Risk Assessment

Tips and Investigations

Past Performance

Prior Test History

Qualifying Status for Major Events

Trainer and Owner Affiliations



# 2024 METRICS

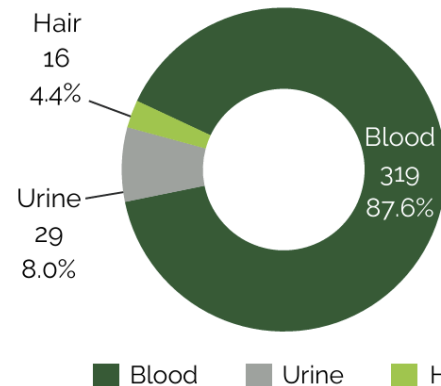
76,534

Total Sample Collection Sessions

26,585

Total Unique Covered Horses Tested

Total AAFs by Matrix



# HOW IS DATA USED?

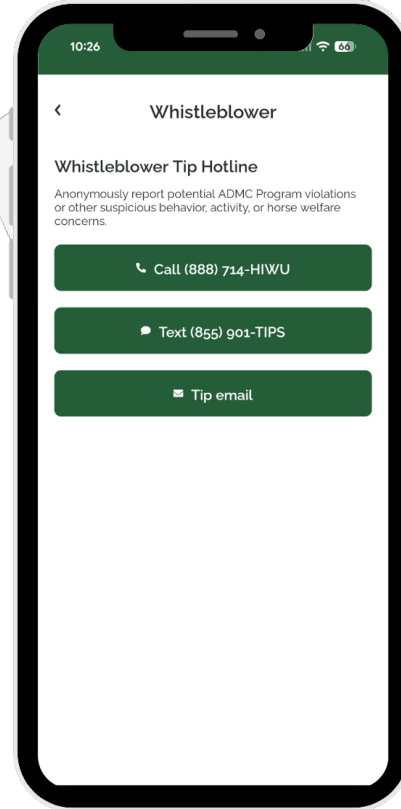
- U "Action" may or may not be additional testing.
- U Testing and investigative decisions are targeted, not random.
- U HIWU's teams work collaboratively to implement plans that detect and deter potential rule violations.



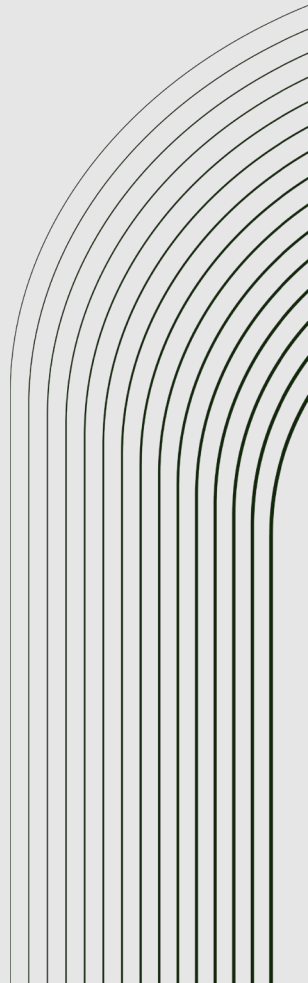
Deterrence &  
Detection Strategies

# TIPS GUIDE TESTING AND INVESTIGATIONS

- U HIWU oversees national anonymous whistleblower platforms via text, phone, and email. Tips can also be submitted through HIWU's mobile app.
- U Using RealResponse, HIWU's Investigative Unit can communicate live with whistleblowers while maintaining confidentiality.
- U Tips are triaged, and potential follow-up actions are evaluated.
- U In 2024, 84.5% of tips received warranted follow-up.



HISA  
**EQUINE**  
RECOVERY FOUNDATION

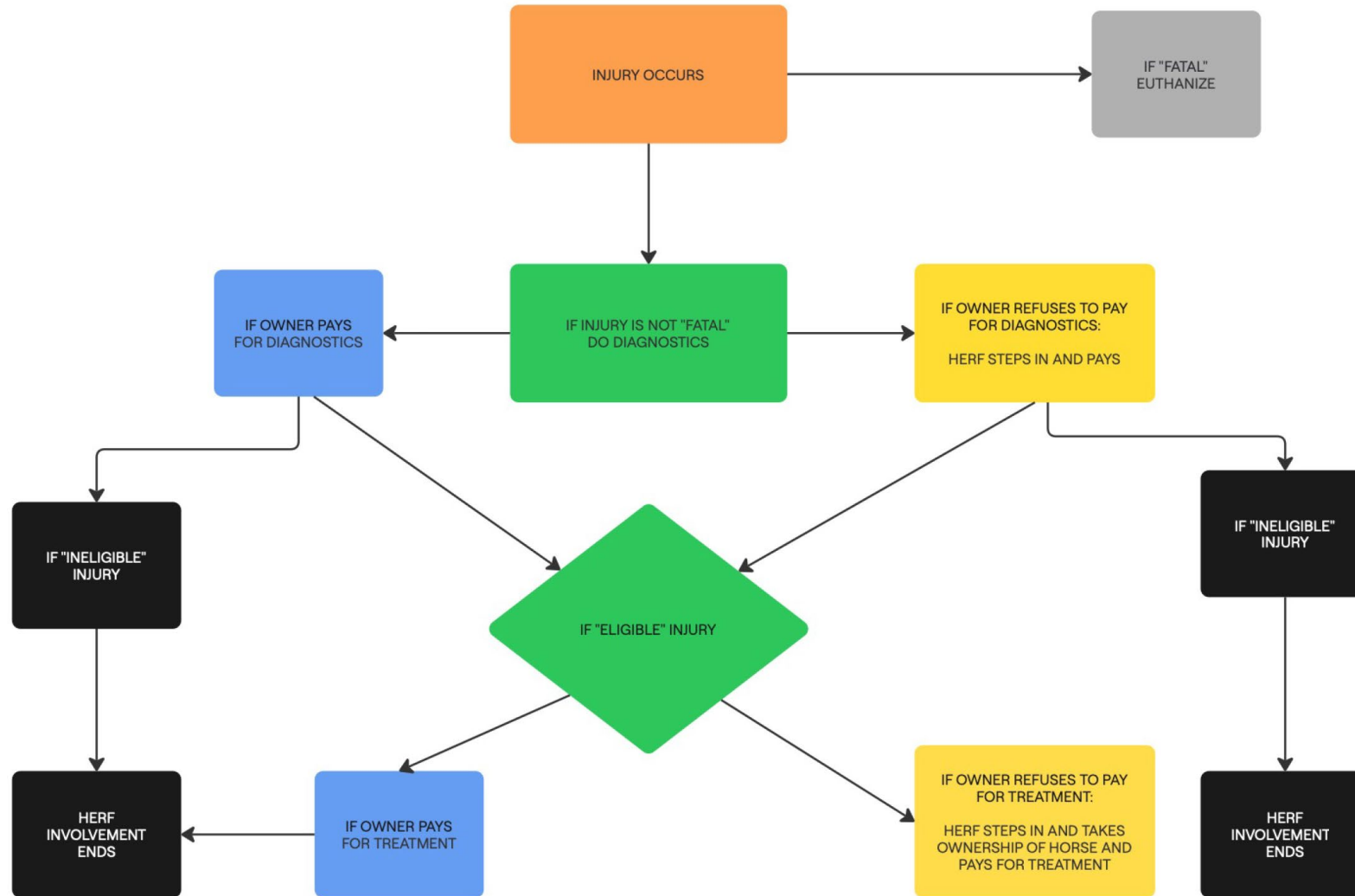


# HISA EQUINE RECOVERY FOUNDATION

- U Launched a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing critical financial and logistical support to injured Thoroughbred racehorses
- U Designed to fill a specific gap by funding veterinary care—including diagnostics, surgery & aftercare
- U Aiming to support up to 15 horses in first year of operations
- U Likelihood of recovery is assessed; vet team determines whether injury is eligible for HERF intervention
  - o Whether there is a very strong likelihood of achieving pain-free pasture soundness with little or no ongoing long-term care

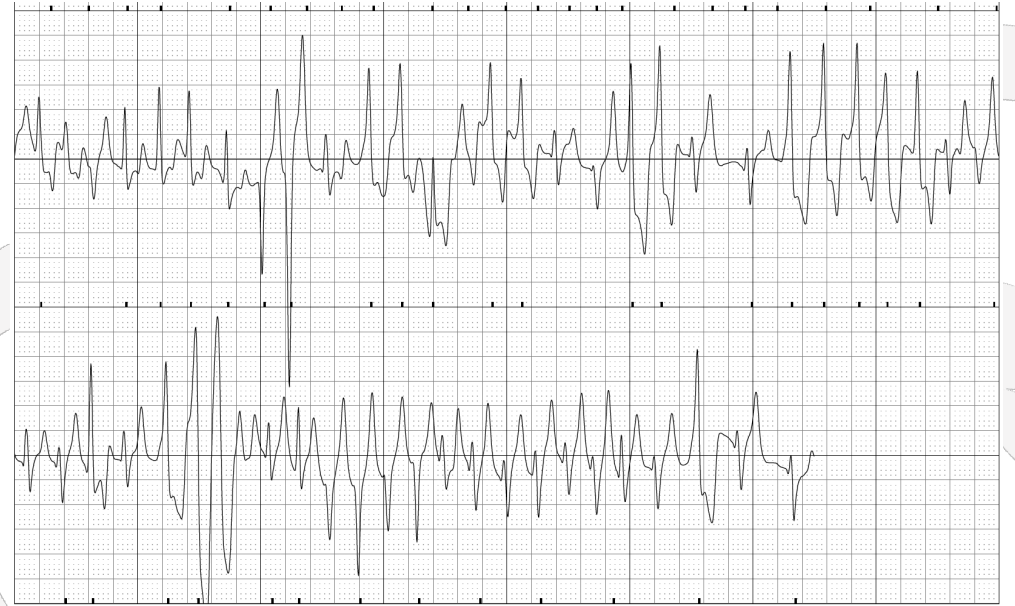


# HERF ELIGIBILITY PROCESS



# SPIT THE BIT

- U Owners wanted to euthanize after being banned from racing due to adverse cardiac events; HERF stepped in
- U Continuing progress towards recuperation and healthy retirement
- U To be re-evaluated in coming weeks by equine cardiac experts at New Bolton Center





THANK YOU



نادي سباقات الخيل  
JOCKEY CLUB OF SAUDI ARABIA