



# Race Line



Photo © 2018 Mr. Will Wong

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*Race Line* is the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)'s publication for Ontario's horse racing industry. Printed copies are available at open racetracks and industry associations; all issues may be viewed online in both official languages at [www.agco.ca](http://www.agco.ca).

We welcome your ideas and input. If there are topics you would like to see addressed in future publications, or if you wish to subscribe to *Race Line* to receive it and other AGCO horse racing-related communications electronically, please email [connect@agco.ca](mailto:connect@agco.ca) or call 416-326-3614.

## Greetings from the AGCO Chair



Grace Kerr

It seems as though I just finished writing my opening season message and here it is fall. It has been a busy and productive year for both the AGCO and the racing industry.

There have been a number of exciting accomplishments across all three breeds so far this season -- Quarter Horse of the year COUNTRY BOY broke a long-standing track record at Ajax Downs, there were

some memorable performances from both WONDER GADOT and PINK LLOYD, and early this fall, McWICKED seized a significant victory against the formidable New Zealand-based, LAZARUS in the Canadian Pacing Derby -- just to name a few.

As the regulator, the AGCO continuously strives to provide a strong foundation for this industry in a relevant and responsive way. As such, following consultation with our stakeholders, industry partners and working groups, several new rules and initiatives were introduced this year as part of our efforts to

modernize our regulatory process and increase its transparency. And our work continues.

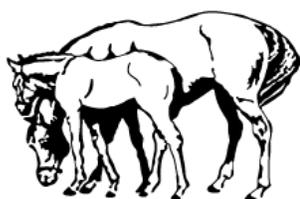
To all of our licensees and stakeholders, at all levels within the industry, I wish you continued success in 2018, and a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

S. Grace Kerr  
AGCO Chair

"The AGCO is committed to enhancing the fairness, integrity and safety of horse racing in Ontario, while at the same time enhancing public confidence, reducing administrative burdens, and modernizing horse racing regulation."

## Equine Guelph Tuition Awards for Ontario Racing Industry Members



EQUINE GUELPH  
helping horses for life™

Thanks to the support of families and organizations providing support to educate future industry professionals to be champions for the health and welfare of horses, Equine Guelph has two tuition awards on offer: The Stuart Stocks Memorial Equine Award and the Roger L'Heureux Memorial Equine Award. Entries for the next Stuart Stocks Memorial Equine Award accepted until Nov 15, 2018 and entries for the next Roger L'Heureux Memorial Equine Award accepted until Nov 27, 2018. For more information and to apply:

[www.equineguelph.ca/education/tuition\\_awards.php](http://www.equineguelph.ca/education/tuition_awards.php)

# Working Together: Equine Medical Records Information Session Recap

The AGCO's Strategic Engagement Office would like to thank the nearly 30 AGCO-licensed veterinarians who attended an information session about equine medical records on July 26, 2018. Senior veterinary services manager, Dr. Adam Chambers and AGCO racing investigator, Tyler Durand, were joined by Dr. Kim Lambert, Associate Registrar, Quality Practice from the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO). This session was held as part of the AGCO's commitment to enhancing the fairness, integrity and safety of horse racing in Ontario and to establishing new opportunities for engagement with the sector.

As articulated in the Ontario rules of racing, trainers whose race horses<sup>1</sup> require the services of a veterinarian must use a veterinarian licensed by the Commission.<sup>2</sup>

A list of veterinarians licensed by the AGCO is now published at: <http://www.agco.ca/horse-racing/agco-licensed-veterinarians>.

**What Is The AGCO's Role When It Comes To Equine Veterinary Medical Records?** The AGCO has the authority to request and examine equine medical records as part of its inspections, as outlined in 26.1 of the *Horse Racing Licence Act 2015*.

The rules of racing and the Act specify that veterinarians are required to make medical records available to the AGCO upon request. Further specific requirements in the rules of racing can be found at [www.agco.ca/rules-racing-and-directives](http://www.agco.ca/rules-racing-and-directives).

**Why Are Medical Records Important To The AGCO?** Medical records are an essential element of the AGCO's inspections, which are conducted with the ultimate goal of helping to drive improvements in the health and safety of both horses and the jockeys and drivers who race them.

**What Is A Medical Record?** For a complete answer to this question, the AGCO relies on the requirements and professional practice standards of the CVO<sup>3</sup>. Please see:

<https://cvo.org/Resources/Professional-Practice-Standards-and-College-Policy/Medical-Records-and-Information.aspx>.

For all records-related questions for the CVO, please contact Dr. Susan Sabatini at 1-800-424-2856 ext. 2401.

## NOTES:

- 1 A "race horse" is defined in Ontario as a horse that has participated in racing within the past 60 days or is within 60 days of participating in racing.
- 2 Exemptions to this rule exist for areas under-served by equine veterinarians licensed by the AGCO, or for the purposes of emergency treatment. Trainers have to apply for an exemption under 29.13 in the Thoroughbred Rules of Racing.
- 3 Rules 27.16.04 (Thoroughbred) and 8.10.04 (Standardbred) state that AGCO-licensed veterinarians must be in compliance with the requirements of the CVO.

## Rules at a Glance: Standardbred 3.04 | Thoroughbred 4.14

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS REQUIREMENTS

Both the *Horse Racing Licence Act, 2015* and the AGCO's *Rules of Racing* mandate that licensees promptly notify the AGCO if there is a change in their address.

**As the AGCO continues development of its online services for the horse racing sector, it is especially important that all licensee's contact information is up-to-date.**

- **Horse Racing Licence Act, 2015, Part III** - Licensing, Chapter 24. | Every licensee shall, not later than five (5) days after the change, serve the Registrar with a written notice of any change in address for service.
- **Standardbred 3.04** | A licensee must serve the Registrar with a written notice of any change in permanent address not later than five (5) days after the change.
- **Thoroughbred 4.14** | A licensee must serve the Registrar with a written notice of any change in permanent address not later than five (5) days after the change.



## Cannabis Legalization

The Government of Canada announced that it will be legal to purchase, possess, and use cannabis for recreational purposes on October 17, 2018. The province has introduced new cannabis legislation that, if passed, will apply to people and businesses in Ontario. The new legislation says:

- A person cannot smoke or vape cannabis in enclosed public places or work places, and other smoke free places. This includes establishments licensed by the AGCO.
- The AGCO will regulate privately-run recreational cannabis stores, with the goal of having stores licensed and open for business by April 1, 2019.

As of October 17, 2018 recreational cannabis can only be sold and purchased online through the Ontario Cannabis Store (OCS).

AGCO inspectors will continue to monitor establishments for illegal activity. For more information, you are welcome to contact the AGCO online via the [iAGCO online portal](#), or by telephone at 416-326-8700 or toll free in Ontario: 1-800-522-2876.

### REMINDER

Clodronate and Tiludronate have been added to the CPMA's Schedule of Prohibited Substances in race horses and testing for these substances commenced August 1, 2018. For more information: **1-800-268-8835** or [cpmawebacpm@agr.gc.ca](mailto:cpmawebacpm@agr.gc.ca).

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# Evaluating the AGCO's new standards-based Temperature Rule

In April of this year, the AGCO introduced a new standards-based Temperature Rule to the industry. It set benchmark temperature settings for activating the requirement for additional precautions in the case of extreme hot or cold temperatures, but left the actual method of implementation up to the discretion of each track.

On a sunny Sunday in August, when the temperature was slated to hit the 30 degree mark, it seemed fitting to pay a visit to the Veterinarian's office at Woodbine and check in on how this rule was being implemented and if it was working as intended.



PINK LLOYD © 2018 Janine Haq

Woodbine's Official Veterinarian, Dr. Darryl Bonder and his colleague Dr. John Starmer, have high praise for the new measures that have been implemented this season, including the provision of buckets of ice water, sponges and scrapers in the paddock, the unsaddling area and the winners circle. Stressing the importance of being "as proactive as possible", the Vets Office has provided trainers, grooms and hot walkers

with brochures and checklists for hot weather safety prior to race day, on race day and even for the winner's circle.

Six cooling stations have been set up around the track with hoses to cool off horses pre-race, walking to the paddock, or post-race after galloping out, on their way to the unsaddling area. These are staffed by the gate crew and the ambulance driver (Warren Wilcox), all of whom, says Dr. Bonder "have stepped up big time" to make sure the horses have ready access to the water stations. "In between races, the water in the hose heats up which isn't helpful. The gate crew make sure that by the time the horses are coming back around after the race, the water is cold and ready for them." Both the horse ambulance and the vet's truck, always nearby, hold buckets of ice water and a water tank with a long sprayer hose (above), at the ready, if needed.



Dr. Darryl Bonder (left) and Dr. John Starmer

Also in the vet's truck is a logbook, in which are recorded any incidents or heat-related scratches. These records are reviewed and carefully studied to see if any tweaks or improvements could be made to the system. Thankfully, this year the book is mercifully light on major incidents. While previously, extreme temperature (heat) days could potentially see 2-3 serious heat-related injuries, so far this season, Woodbine has had just one.

Once a day is identified as "high risk", track executives and the gate crew are notified first thing in the morning and preparations immediately get under way to put additional safety measures in place. "It [the rule] has had a huge impact", said Dr. Bonder "and everyone has bought in."

Whenever rule changes are deliberated, the well-being and welfare of the horses is always at the top of the list of considerations. And this change, with everyone doing their bit, is one that seems to be working well.



Photo: John Watkins

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Race Day Cancellation Process: [www.agco.ca/sites/default/files/temperature\\_standards\\_for\\_web\\_0.pdf](http://www.agco.ca/sites/default/files/temperature_standards_for_web_0.pdf)
- Official Weather Sources: [www.agco.ca/horse-racing/official-weather-sources](http://www.agco.ca/horse-racing/official-weather-sources)
- Hot Weather Care for Your Horse: Ontario Racing Infographic: <http://ontarioracing.com/News-and-Racing-Results/News/2018/Hot-weather-care-for-your-horse-Ontario-Racing-In.aspx>

## 2018 RULE BOOKS

Updated *Rules of Racing* for both Standardbred and Thoroughbred / Quarter Horse are being printed and will be distributed this fall to open racetracks and industry associations. The books, available in both English and French, incorporate a number of existing Directives into the main body of the book and contain an updated index.

# Race Reports: Worth the Read?

Initially launched in 2017 as a pilot program at selected racetracks, following positive feedback the AGCO started publishing the Race Reports for all Ontario tracks in the spring of 2018.

These reports include details on in-race calls made by AGCO Race Officials and other insights impacting each race card. They provide the betting public with additional wagering insights and race participants with a greater understanding of the rationale behind in-race calls. Publishing the reports also increases the transparency and awareness of the “behind-the-scenes” activities of the Racing Officials, such as follow-up reviews, race day changes and inquiries. In addition, embedded video from Premier and Signature races is used in conjunction with the reports as a training tool for current and new Racing Officials, to improve consistency.

**Roy Robinson** has been a regular at Ajax Downs Racetrack for the past five years. He says that up until now, “the decision-making process has always been ‘very opaque.’” He has become an avid reader of the reports and says he is “very much enjoying the transparency of the work that goes on behind the scenes.” For clarity, he would still like to see fewer acronyms used in the reports, but says that as time goes on, they are “steadily improving.”

**Jennifer Morrison**, a long-time handicapper and fervent racing fan, enthusiastically endorses the publishing of these reports and calls it “an important addition to horse racing in Ontario.” She explains that as a handicapper, being informed as to the “why” and not just the “what” of an occurrence, makes a difference in future betting decisions. For example, if a horse is a late scratch, one could formerly only speculate as to the reason – was it hurt or sick? Having in hand the explanation that it merely lost a shoe puts things in much different light, as does knowing with clarity why a horse was disqualified or didn’t finish. Being able to read that there was a review when a horse won at 80-1 or was interfered with, she says, “let’s people know that someone is indeed watching.” While she would like to see still more information in the reports, she is very pleased with the improvement in communication.



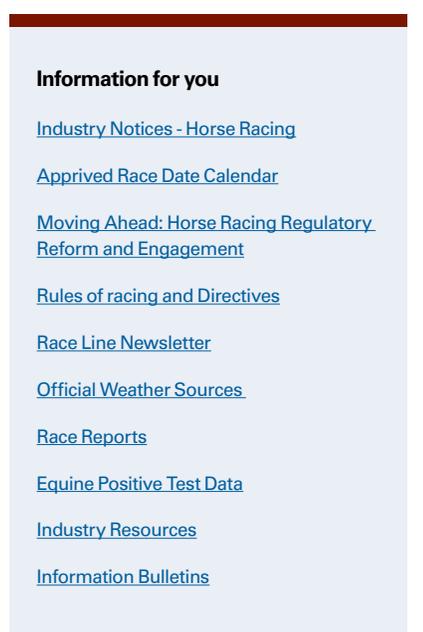
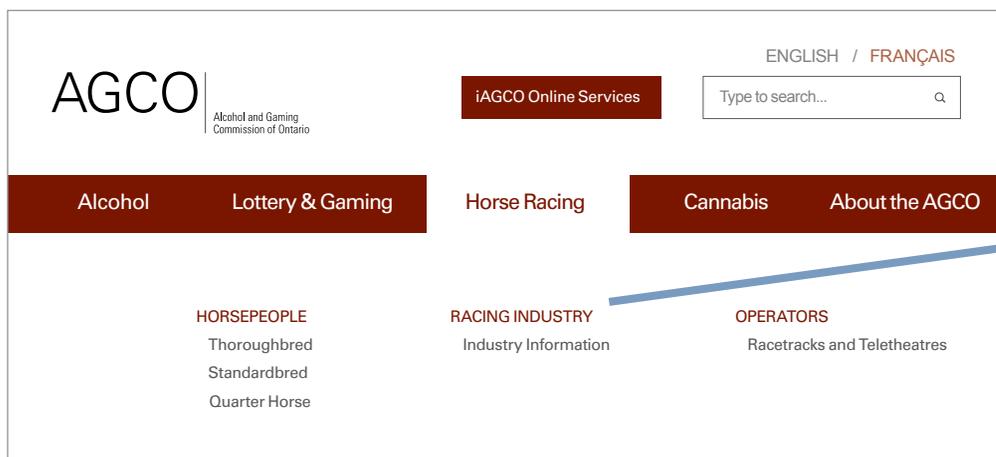
“Sharing these reports with the public is an important step on the way to full transparency, giving both fans and bettors confidence in the regulating of this sport.”

## OFFICIAL RACE REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

AGCO	All Tracks (English)	<a href="http://www.agco.ca/content/race-reports">www.agco.ca/content/race-reports</a>
AGCO	All Tracks (French)	<a href="http://www.agco.ca/fr/content/rapports-de-courses">www.agco.ca/fr/content/rapports-de-courses</a>
Ajax Downs	Quarter Horse	<a href="http://www.ajaxdowns.com/horsemen/agco-official-race-reports/">www.ajaxdowns.com/horsemen/agco-official-race-reports/</a>
Fort Erie Race Track	Fort Erie Thoroughbred	<a href="http://www.forterieracing.com/agco-information">www.forterieracing.com/agco-information</a>
Standardbred Canada	All Standardbred Tracks	<a href="http://www.standardbredcanada.ca/content/agco-official-race-reports.html">www.standardbredcanada.ca/content/agco-official-race-reports.html</a>
Woodbine Racetrack	Woodbine Thoroughbred	<a href="http://www.woodbine.com/horsepeople/">www.woodbine.com/horsepeople/</a>

## AGCO WEBSITE: RACING PORTAL UPDATE

The AGCO has recently updated the **Horse Racing portal on the website**, making it easier to find the most frequently accessed information.



# Race Line

This newsletter is published by the **Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario** to provide licensees and interested parties with information regarding horse racing legislation and related issues. Reader comments and content suggestions are welcome.

**Editor**  
 Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario  
 90 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 200  
 Toronto, Ontario M2N 0A4  
[connect@agco.ca](mailto:connect@agco.ca)

**General Inquiries**  
 416-326-8700 or toll free in Ontario 1-800-522-2876  
 Online Inquiries: [www.agco.ca/iagco](http://www.agco.ca/iagco)  
 Web: [www.agco.ca](http://www.agco.ca)

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