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TOC, CTT Endorse THA Open Letter Regarding Lasix

Del Mar, Calif. – Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) and California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT) stand together in support of the open letter distributed by Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association (THA) on August 6, 2014, regarding Lasix.

Memberships of both organizations overwhelmingly support current initiatives to implement uniform medication guidelines including use of Lasix. A broad coalition of racing entities has been working within the Racing Medication Testing Consortium (RMTC) on this issue for several years. For the first time, the Thoroughbred industry became united in its efforts to join all racing jurisdictions under the same medication guidelines. This major initiative and step forward ought not be disturbed.

Instead, a united sport needs to continue its work until these guidelines have been adopted in every racing state. Dr. Mark Dedomenico’s efforts to fund additional research on Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage (EIPH) require support. Objective scientific research rather than political posturing must guide policy-makers and regulators to the next steps. Making arbitrary changes to rules or policies, not founded in objective science, would only result in additional turmoil and failure.

For all owners and trainers, the most important factor of all is the well-being of their horses. Denying our horses advances in legitimate, scientifically proven therapeutic medication cannot be tolerated.