

**RESOLUTION #3—2023
Regular Winter Session**

Submitted by
Board of Directors

NEW POLICY ON UNREGULATED HORSE RACING

RESOLVED that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt the policy on Unregulated Horse Racing as noted below.

Unregulated Horse Racing (Bush Tracks)

The AVMA **condemns** unregulated racing of equids.

All horse races should comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, as well as tenets of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act. Racing events must have a Category II USDA-accredited veterinarian overseeing the health of participating equids. Effective protocols for infectious disease testing and control are required, and illicit (prohibited and banned) substances must never be administered to the equids. Abusive practices including, but not limited to, excessive whipping; application of caustic substances; or use of batteries, buzzers, or other similar electrical devices that could be used to alter the speed of a horse in a race or workout are not acceptable. Euthanasia, when warranted, should be performed by a licensed veterinarian in accordance with the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.

Statement about the Resolution

AVMA staff attended a meeting in August 2022 regarding the health, welfare, and safety issues found in unregulated horse races (bush track racing). The item was subsequently discussed by the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) during its fall meeting.

Known health issues associated with this type of racing include the spread of Equine Infectious Anemia and piroplasmiasis in the US equid herd in addition to the use of many illegal substances. Abusive practices including excessive whipping, application of caustic substances, and the use of electrical devices have been documented in these races. There has also been documentation of jockeys suffering terrible injuries at these events. These races are unsafe for both equids and riders. [Media coverage](#) of these underground events also poses a risk to the perception of regulated racing.

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #7	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X	X	X	X
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				

(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)