

Date	Time (PDT*)	Topic	Speaker(s)	Course Description
*PDT begins Sunday, March 8, 2026				
	7:00 - 7:45 am	Arrive, Check-in, and Breakfast		
3/9/2026	7:45 - 8:00 am	Welcome/Logistics	Michael Hardy, DVM	
3/9/2026	8:00 - 8:30 am	What's New	Moderator: Michael Hardy, DVM	Dr. Hardy will moderate a review of new information on a wide range of topics relative to the day-to-day responsibilities of the racing regulatory veterinarian with a focus on safety, welfare, drug testing, pharmacology, technology, and research.
3/9/2026	8:30 - 9:30 am	Unsanctioned Racing - Risks to Regulated Racing	Angela Pelzel McClusky, DVM, MS	Dr. Pelzel-McClusky will discuss her research related to Quarter Horse unsanctioned racing, including uncovered evidence of doping schemes and iatrogenic transmissible equine infectious diseases. She will cite case histories and investigative findings where the practice of blood doping resulted in a threat to both horse health and racing integrity and broader implications to regulated racing.
3/9/2026	9:30 - 10 am	Wearable Technology Update	Will Farmer, DVM	Wearable Technologies provide a unique opportunity for the racing industry to identify new mechanisms to aid horsemen, attending veterinarians, and regulatory veterinarians in monitoring the physical well-being of the horse. Dr. Farmer will provide an overview of what technologies are being used at their respective tracks, what they have learned, and how they will be applied as apart of their day to day responsibilities going forward.
3/9/2026	10:00 - 10:15 am	Break		
3/9/2026	10:15 - 11:15 am	Advancing Safety and Welfare in Horseracing: An International Perspective	Fumiaki Mizobe, DVM, PhD	Drawing on his roles as Manager of the Examination Division at the JRA Miho Training Center and Chair of the IGSRV, Dr. Fumi Mizobe will outline science-based strategies to protect racehorse welfare. The talk will highlight international perspectives on key issues such as post-exertional distress and explore how this work translates into practical approaches for managing racehorse health both in Japan and globally.
3/9/2026	11:15 - 11:45 am	Principles of Pre-Race Exam	Michael Hardy, DVM	Dr. Hardy will present on the components and strategies of the pre-race examination, benefits and limitations, and what are considered best practices. He will discuss the AAEP lameness score and how this applies to determining racing soundness of the racehorse and define baseline clinical parameters for determining an unsound horse.
3/9/2026	11:45 - 12:45	Lunch		
3/9/2026	12:45 - 1:45 pm	Case Histories	Moderator: Dionne Benson, JD, DVM; Tim Grande, DVM; Nick Smith, DVM; Danielle Schilpp, DVM	Dr. Benson will moderate a panel discussion of diverse case histories from multiple racing jurisdictions specifically addressing various sources of information regulatory veterinarians utilize to develop a profile which aide in determining racing soundness, alongside the clinical exam of horses in training or racing. Panelists will share case histories, (which will include risk assessment strategies, pre-race/work exam findings, previous injuries, diagnostics, and other sources information) outcomes, and lessons learned.
3/9/2026	1:45 - 2:45 pm	Clinical Pathology at the Racetrack	Lynn Hovda, RPH, DVM, MS, DACVIM	Dr. Hovda, a long-standing regulatory veterinarian and veterinary internist, will review basic principles of clinical pathology in the horse. As clinical pathology is a commonly used tool by practicing veterinarians, Dr. Hovda will discuss its applications to evaluate the racehorse's health.
3/9/2026	2:45 - 3:15 pm	Starting Gate Management	Rebecca Fitzgerald, DVM	Dr. Fitzgerald, a regulatory veterinarian for Los Alamitos, will discuss the unique responsibilities of the regulatory veterinarian at the starting gate. She will detail key observations, the decision-making tree of the horse's soundness and fitness to race in the event of an adverse event in the gate, and triage response to a starting gate emergency. Dr. Fitzgerald will share starting gate challenges with Quarter Horse racing.
3/9/2026	3:15 - 3:30 pm	Break		
3/9/2026	3:30 - 4:30 pm	How to be an Expert Witness	Dionne Benson, JD, DVM	Regulatory veterinarians are often asked to provide expert witness testimony in various horse racing cases. Dr. Benson will discuss what regulatory veterinarians need to know about establishing credibility through qualifications, understanding what you are being asked to do, factual discoveries from your research, what your conclusions are, and how to prepare for cross-examination.
3/9/2026	4:30 - 5:30 pm	Mortality Reviews - How to utilize the Diagnostic Laboratory as a valuable resource.	Rick Arthur, DVM; Tim Grande, DVM, MPH; Dionne Benson, JD, DVM	This panel will discuss best practices of the mortality review process. They will share how to effectively garner useful information, how to foster an effective relationship with the Diagnostic Laboratory and utilize that as a valuable resource, and how to assimilate conclusions and determine areas of improvement. Panel members will share tips on how to evaluate the results of the review for each individual horse but also keeping the population perspective in mind while also effectively communicating the results of the review and potential next steps with the covered persons.
3/9/2026	5:45 - 7:45 pm	Welcome Reception		

Date	Time (PDT*)	Topic	Speaker(s)	Course Description
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3/10/2026	7:00 - 8:00 am	Arrive, Check-in, and Breakfast		
3/10/2026	8:00 - 9:00 am	Risk Analysis - Handicapping	Tim Grande, DVM, MPH	Dr. Grande will present on the strategies for risk analysis. He will discuss in detail what resources are available and what risk assessment parameters are used for review. Dr. Grande will also provide a handicapper's perspective on the health and soundness of a horse based on the resources they have available.
3/10/2026	9:00 - 10:00 am	Cardiac Workup - Considerations for the Collapsed Horse	Mary Durando, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (LAIM)	Dr. Durando will provide an overview of the Cardiac Workup, including signalment, clinical and performance histories, and investigative diagnostics. She will also provide insight into the the workup of the acutely poor performing and the collapsed horse.
3/10/2026	10:00 - 10:15 am	Break		
3/10/2026	10:15 - 11:45 am	Group Breakout Session: Wetlab (1) - Principles of Splinting/Bandaging; Wetlab (2) - Ultrasound Shoulder/Humerus; Wetlab (3) - Neurologic Exam; Wetlab (4) - Cardiac Auscultation /ECG	Michael Hardy, DVM (Moderator); Ryan Carpenter, DVM, MS, DACVS; Betsy Vaughn, DVM, DACVSMR; Barrie Grant, DVM, DACVS; Mary Durando, DVM, PhD, DACVIM	Attendees will be assigned to small groups; each group will rotate through Wetlab 1-4 providing a time of instruction covering each topic and an opportunity for hands on experience for attendees. For Wetlab (1) - Principles of Splinting/Bandaging, Dr. Ryan Carpenter will moderate; Wetlab (2) - Ultrasound Shoulder/Humerus, Dr. Betsy Vaughn will moderate, Wetlab (3) - Neurologic Exam, Dr. Barrie Grant will moderate, and Wetlab (4) - Cardiac Auscultation/ECG, Dr. Mary Durando will moderate.
3/10/2026	11:45 - 12:45 pm	Lunch		
3/10/2026	12:45 - 2:15 pm	Group Breakout Session: Wetlab (1) - Principles of Splinting/Bandaging; Wetlab (2) - Ultrasound Shoulder/Humerus; Wetlab (3) - Neurologic Exam; Wetlab (4) - Cardiac Auscultation /ECG	Michael Hardy, DVM (Moderator); Ryan Carpenter, DVM, MS, DACVS; Betsy Vaughn, DVM, DACVSMR; Barrie Grant, DVM, DACVS; Mary Durando, DVM, PhD, DACVIM	Attendees will be assigned to small groups; each group will rotate through Wetlab 1-4 providing a time of instruction covering each topic and an opportunity for hands on experience for attendees. For Wetlab (1) - Principles of Splinting/Bandaging, Dr. Ryan Carpenter will moderate; Wetlab (2) - Ultrasound Shoulder/Humerus, Dr. Betsy Vaughn will moderate, Wetlab (3) - Neurologic Exam, Dr. Barrie Grant will moderate, and Wetlab (4) - Cardiac Auscultation/ECG, Dr. Mary Durando will moderate.
3/10/2026	2:15 - 2:45 pm	Atrial Fibrillation in the Standardbred	Sian Durward-Akhurst, BVMS, PhD, DACVIM-LA, MRCVS	Dr. Akhurst will detail atrial fibrillation and its impact on performance and safety and/or risk factors associated with EASD in racehorses, with a focus on Standardbreds. She will provide insight into how to diagnose and manage cases acutely but also in horses with known histories
3/10/2026	2:45 - 3:00 pm	Break		
3/10/2026	3:00 - 4:00 pm	Track Manager in the Field	Will Farmer, DVM	Dr. Farmer will present on the use of the InCompass Track Manager program for the regulatory veterinarian. He will discuss how to best utilize this resource in real-time, including all of the available features such as, pre-race exam maintenance, vet exams, non-race day observations, vets list entry and removal, inputting relevant treatment details, HISA entry requirements, running reports, and apply to race day activities.
3/10/2026	4:00 - 4:30 pm	Standardbred Equipment - Carts, Poles, and Harnesses	Casey Larson	Mr. Larson, Presiding Judge for the Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation, will provide an overview of equipment used in Standardbred racing and their potential implications on safety and welfare.
3/10/2026	4:30 - 5:30	The Farrier's Perspective at the Racetrack	Jay Deluhery, DVM, MBA	Dr. Deluhery will provide a farriers perspective at the racetrack will a focus on the foot as a critical contributor to racing soundness. This discussion with be a focus on the foot, shoeing methods, and what it means for the regulatory veterinarian when we see these shoeing changes.



REGULATORY VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION

SPEAKER BIOS

RegVet CE at Los Alamitos - Monday, March 9

8:00 – 8:30am What's New

Dr. Michael Hardy

Dr. Hardy serves as executive director at the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC). He also joined the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU) as acting chief of science in July 2025. Prior to these leadership roles, Dr. Hardy spent more than 17 years as a racing regulatory veterinarian. He began his career with the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission and later joined Horseshoe Indianapolis as the chief official racing veterinarian, which preceded his time as the safety director. From 2015 to 2024, he has also participated as a member of Breeders' Cup's Veterinary Panel. Dr. Hardy is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Franklin College and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine.

8:30 – 9:30 am Unsanctioned Racing – Risks to Regulated Racing

Dr. Angela Pelzel McClusky

Dr. Pelzel-McClusky earned her veterinary degree from Texas A&M University and her Masters' Degree in Immunology and Infectious Disease from Washington State University. She currently serves as Equine Epidemiologist, USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services (Ft. Collins, CO) where she publishes nation-level situation and epidemiological reports, supports responses to domestic equine infectious diseases, and contributes to national preparedness for foreign and transboundary animal diseases.

9:30 - 10:00 am Wearable Technology Update

Dr. Will Farmer

A graduate of Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Farmer is the Equine Medical Director for Churchill Downs, Inc. Prior to joining the Churchill team Dr. Farmer was the Chief Racing Veterinarian for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission and an Official Veterinarian with the California Horse Racing Board. Since 2010, Dr. Farmer has been a member of the panel of veterinarians assessing horses for the Breeders' Cup Championships. In 2017, Dr. Farmer participated in the organization of an Out of Competition testing program for Breeders' Cup championship event. He remains the coordinator for this international testing protocol.



REGULATORY VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION

10:15 – 11:15 am Advancing Safety and Welfare in Horseracing: An International Perspective

Dr. Fumiaki Mizobe

Dr. Fumiaki Mizobe graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Hokkaido University, Japan, in 2008 and joined the Japan Racing Association the same year. Internationally, he serves as a member of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities' Technical Advisory Committee, Horse Welfare Committee, and Advisory Council on Equine Prohibited Substances and Practices. In 2024, he was appointed Chairman of the International Group of Specialist Regulatory Veterinarians, where he oversees matters related to health, welfare and anti-doping.

11:15 – 11:45 am Principles of Pre-Race Exam

Dr. Michael Hardy – see above

12:45 – 1:45 pm Case Histories

Moderator - Dr.Dionne Benson

Dr. Benson is Chief Veterinary Officer for the Stronach Group, with responsibilities for veterinary safety, welfare, and integrity practices and protocols, as well as equine research initiatives for TSG's 1/ST Racing and training brands including Santa Anita Park, San Luis Rey Downs, Gulfstream Park, Gulfstream Park West, Palm Meadows, Pimlico Race Course, Laurel Park and Bowie Training Center. From 2013-2019 she was the Executive Director and COO for the RMTC. Dr. Benson earned her veterinary degree from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota and her Juris Doctor (JD) from the William Mitchell College of Law.

Dr.Tim Grande

Dr. Grande has worked in multiple capacities in the southern California Thoroughbred racing industry, beginning as a hotwalker in 1995. He graduated from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 2002 and received a Master of Public Health degree from UC Berkeley in 2017. After several years as a racetrack practitioner, Dr. Grande was hired as an Official Veterinarian by the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) in 2012 and was recently named Chief Official Veterinarian, responsible for overseeing all Official Veterinarians working for the CHRB.



REGULATORY VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dr Nick Smith

Dr. Smith is a graduate of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. His career started at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky, followed by a year at Dubai Stable, in the UAE, as the resident veterinarian. Dr. Smith returned home to serve a short period as a Veterinary Medical Officer for the USDA's Horse Protection Program. Since October 2011, he has been a member of the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's Veterinary Team. In June 2020, he was named the Chief Racing Veterinarian for the KHRC and continues to serve in that role.

Dr Danielle Schilpp

Dr. Schilpp is a senior examining veterinarian with the New York Racing Association. Prior to joining NYRA in 2019 she spent 15 years working at a private referral/emergency hospital in upstate New York. She is a current member of AAEP Racing Committee.

1:45 – 2:45 pm Clinical Pathology at the Racetrack

Dr. Lynn Hovda

Dr. Hovda graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and completed a large animal internship at the University of Georgia and large animal residency at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She is a registered pharmacist, earned a master's degree in veterinary science from the University of Wisconsin, and is a boarded ACVIM large animal internist. Lynn is currently the Chief Commission Veterinarian for the Minnesota Racing Commission and the Director of Veterinary Science and Research at Safety call International and the Pet Poison Helpline. Her research interests include pharmacology, toxicology, and racetrack internal medicine; her personal interests include putting in the garden, travel, scuba diving, and downhill skiing.

2:45 – 3:15 pm Starting Gate Management

Dr. Rebecca Fitzgerald

3:30 – 4:30 pm How to be an Expert Witness

Dr. Dionne Benson – See above



REGULATORY VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION

4:30 – 5:30 pm Mortality Reviews – How to utilize the Diagnostic Laboratory as a valuable resource

Dr. Dionne Benson – See above

Dr. Tim Grande – See above

Dr Rick Arthur

Dr. Rick Arthur is currently president of the Oak Tree Racing Association and an advisor to racing associations on veterinary services, equine safety, and racing integrity issues. Dr. Arthur was a private racetrack veterinarian in Southern California for 30 years before becoming Equine Medical Director (EMD) at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 2006. He served as EMD in California for 15 years until his retirement in 2021. Dr. Arthur has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles related to racing veterinary practice or racing regulation. He is a Past-president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and a member of The Jockey Club. Dr. Arthur serves on the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities' Advisory Council on Prohibited Substances and Welfare committees and is a member of The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Safety Committee.



REGULATORY VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION

SPEAKER BIOS

RegVet CE at Los Alamitos - Tuesday, March 10

8:00 – 9:00 am Risk Analysis - Handicapping

Dr. Tim Grande – See Above

9:00 – 10:00 am Cardiac Workup – Considerations for the Collapsed Horse

Dr. Mary Durando

Dr. Durando is a 1987 graduate of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her residency in Large Animal Internal Medicine at the University of Florida and PhD at the Medical University of South Carolina. She completed a two year fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania's Large Animal Hospital in the Large Animal Cardiology/Ultrasound department and has been awarded Diplomate status in Large Animal Internal Medicine by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She is a partner in Equine Sports Medicine Consultants, an ambulatory internal medicine consulting practice, as well as a part-time, staff veterinarian at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital at the Wellington and Saratoga Springs divisions. She has been published in numerous peer reviewed journals and book chapters, and has presented at various regional, national, and international continuing education seminars. Dr. Durando's special interests include cardiology, respiratory disorders, exercise physiology and how the disorders of the cardiopulmonary system relate to poor performance with additional interests in neonatology and sepsis/endotoxemia.

10:15 – 11:45 am Group Breakout Session: Wetlab (1) Principles of Splinting/Bandaging; Wetlab (2) Ultrasound Shoulder/Humerus; Wetlab (3) Neurologic Exam; Wetlab (4) Cardiac Auscultation/ECG

Moderator – Dr Michael Hardy – See Above

Dr. Ryan Carpenter

Dr. Carpenter graduated from UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine in 2005. He went on to complete a surgical residency and combined master's program where he conducted orthopedic research projects focusing on gene therapy and fracture healing in the Equine Orthopedic Research Center at Colorado State University, where Dr. Carpenter is now an AO faculty member. He is actively involved with AAEP and ACVS and regularly speaks both nationally and internationally about Thoroughbred racehorses. He is an active racetrack practitioner in the mornings at Santa Anita and Del Mar, and his afternoons are spent in a Thoroughbred racetrack practice specializing in orthopedic and upper airway surgery.



REGULATORY VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dr. Betsy Vaughn

Dr. Betsy Vaughn is Section Head and Fellowship director of the Large Animal Ultrasound Service and Vice-Chair of the Department of Surgical and Radiological Sciences at UC Davis where she has served on the faculty for over 20 years. Her interests include equine musculoskeletal injuries and imaging and minimally invasive ultrasound-guided procedures. Dr. Vaughn enjoys teaching and is an avid instructor both in the clinic and at continuing education seminars across the country. She is a 2002 graduate of Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine, completed her internship at Peterson and Smith Equine Hospital in Ocala, FL and her residency in LA Ultrasound at UC Davis. She became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation in 2017

Dr Barrie Grant

Dr. Barrie Grant received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1967. He completed his residency training at the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and his Master's Degree at Washington State University (WSU). Dr. Grant served on faculty at WSU as head of the Equine Division and became a tenured full-time professor. Since 2008, he runs and operates his consulting practice, Barrie Grant Equine Consultant in Bonsall, California and also works at the Southern California race tracks as a regulatory veterinarian. Most notably, while teaching at WSU Dr. Grant helped develop the surgical treatment used in horses and people for cervical cord compression (wobblers) and further refined the technique that now uses a titanium Seattle Slew implant (basket).

Dr Mary Durando – See Above

12:45 – 2:15 am Group Breakout Session: Wetlab (1) Principles of Splinting/Bandaging; Wetlab (2) Ultrasound Shoulder/Humerus; Wetlab (3) Neurologic Exam; Wetlab (4) Cardiac Auscultation/ECG

Moderator – Dr Michael Hardy – See Above

Dr. Betsy Vaughn – See Above

Dr Barrie Grant – See Above

Dr Mary Durando – See Above



REGULATORY VETERINARY CONTINUING EDUCATION

2:15 – 2:45 am Atrial Fibrillation in the Standardbred

Dr. Sian Durward -Akhurst

Dr. Sian Durward-Akhurst is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. She received her veterinary degree from the University of Glasgow. She pursued specialty training with a rotating equine internship at the Royal Veterinary College and a large animal internal medicine residency and a PhD in genetics in the Comparative and Molecular Biosciences program at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Durward-Akhurst became faculty at the University of Minnesota in 2021. She has a strong interest in equine cardiology and her research focuses on improving methods of detecting Standardbred and Thoroughbred racehorses at high risk of developing exercise-associated cardiac arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Track Manager in the Field

Dr Will Farmer – See Above

4:00 – 4:30 pm Standardbred Equipment – Carts, Poles, and Harnesses

Mr. Casey Larson

Casey Larson is the Presiding Judge for harness racing with the Kentucky Horse Racing & Gaming Corporation. He previously served as Presiding Judge for Iowa Harness Racing and the Minnesota Racing Commission, and as Associate Judge for the Minnesota Racing Commission. A Standardbred trainer from 2000-2019, Casey managed Larson Stables racing in eight different states. Casey Larson holds a High School Diploma from Canton, South Dakota, where they were recognized on the Dean's List for academic excellence. Casey has received his full harness ROAP accreditation and serves as a speaker for the United States Trotting Association's continuing education classes.

4:30 – 5:30 pm The Farrier's Perspective at the Racetrack

Dr. Jay Deluhery

Dr. Deluhery served 4 years of active duty and 2 years as a reserve Infantryman in the United States Marine Corps. He is a 1987 graduate of the Oklahoma Horseshoeing School and was awarded his Master Farriers Certificate in 1992. He also has a Level II Certified Journeyman Farrier credential from the International Association of Professional Farriers. Dr. Deluhery owned a multi-disciplined farrier practice in Southern California from 1988-2003. He graduated from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 2010 and received his MBA from Colorado State University in 2019. Since 2012, Dr. Deluhery has worked as a racetrack regulatory veterinarian in Florida, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, the last 4 years as part of Santa Anita's veterinary team. Dr. Jay also owns a multi-state private practice entirely focused on therapeutic farriery and equine dentistry.