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"Breeding, Drugs and Breakdowns:
The State of Thoroughbred Horseracing and the Welfare of the Thoroughbred Racehorse"
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection
Committee on Energy and Commerce

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Good morning, Ms. Vice Chairman, and members of the committee. I am grateful for the opportunity to be here today and to briefly share with you some information about the role, mission and activities of The Jockey Club.

The Jockey Club was formed in 1894 and is the breed registry for all Thoroughbred horses in North America. As such, we are responsible for maintaining *The American Stud Book*, which ensures the correct pedigree and identification of every Thoroughbred foaled in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. In order to register a Thoroughbred in North America, breeders must comply with the rules of registration as set forth in the *Principal Rules and Requirements of The American Stud Book*.

The Jockey Club is a founding member of The International Stud Book Committee, which serves to coordinate the policies and practices of stud book authorities around the world. A key ingredient to accomplishing this is through the development of the internationally accepted "Definition of a Thoroughbred," as contained in Article 12 of the *International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering*.

There are presently 64 countries that are signatories to this important article. As signatories, each stud book authority, including The Jockey Club, incorporates the provisions of Article 12 into its own rules.

Neither Article 12 or the *Principal Rules and Requirements of The American Stud Book* themselves promote specific attributes. To do so would be at best subjective and potentially restrictive to fair trade and free market enterprise, not only in North America but around the world.

Article 12 of the *International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering* is perhaps the best example of the global racing community harmonizing the rules of different jurisdictions in order to facilitate cross-border commerce. Uniform rules among 64 participating countries enable a Thoroughbred purchased at auction in North America, for example, to be exported to another country in order to race and breed there. These same uniform rules are what enabled the magnificent Curlin to travel to Dubai this past March and capture the Dubai World Cup.

Having mentioned the global nature of Thoroughbred breeding, and before I delve into some of the many equine health and safety initiatives that The Jockey Club has spearheaded through the years, it may also be helpful to provide you with a sense of the scope of Thoroughbred breeding and racing worldwide.

In 2006, there were 170,000 races run worldwide. That averages about 465 races per day...or one race somewhere in the world every three minutes!

Across the globe, owners competed for almost \$4 billion dollars in purse money and bettors wagered more than \$112 billion dollars in 2006. 196,000 mares were bred to 10,000 stallions and 118,000 foals were registered.

In 2006, the United States was responsible for:

- 30% of mares bred worldwide;
- 29% of registered foals;
- 31% of races run;
- 29% of prize-money awarded;
- 13% of pari-mutuel handle.

The United States tops the list worldwide in the first four categories and is ranked 3rd in handle. In addition, continued strong international demand for American bloodlines has resulted in a 28% increase in the total number of exports over the past five years, with increases in each of the last four years.

Beyond its primary mission as keeper of *The American Stud Book*, The Jockey Club has, since its inception, maintained a leadership role in numerous and wide-ranging industry initiatives. Time and time again, The Jockey Club has devoted very substantial efforts and resources to projects that we believed in.

Many of those projects through the years have centered on the health and safety of the horse. Many others have focused on the medication dilemma that has hovered over this industry, and indeed all sports, for decades.

Much of our work in the area of equine health and welfare of the Thoroughbred has been conducted through our Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, a worldwide leader in equine research.

Since 1983, Grayson has provided more than \$13 million to fund 210 projects at more than 30 universities. In 2007 alone, over \$1.1 million was allocated for 21 projects, including three devoted to the study of laminitis, the painful and often fatal hoof disease that afflicted Barbaro following his injury in the 2006 Preakness Stakes.

A majority of the advances that are the result of Grayson-funded research benefit all horse breeds, not just Thoroughbreds.

Together with The Jockey Club, Grayson initiated, organized and underwrote the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summits that were held at Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Kentucky in October, 2006 and March, 2008.

The October 2006 Summit involved more than 40 leaders from across the industry. Actions taken at the 2006 Summit included:

- Creation of an on-track injury reporting system and development of a standard form for reporting injuries;
- Increasing industry awareness of a growing body of scientific data identifying use of toe-grabs and other traction devices on front shoes of race horses as contributing to an increased risk of catastrophic injury; and
- Statistical analyses to determine if specific bloodlines are producing horses exceeding norms in terms of soundness and durability, with an eventual plan to derive a Durability Index as a tool for breeders.

It is simply unacceptable that racing has no national system in place to record injuries. A comprehensive tracking and reporting system is essential to properly analyzing injuries and identifying the conditions and circumstances that give rise to them.

Thanks in large part to the leadership and efforts of Dr. Mary Scollay, whom you will hear from later today, we are on the verge of rectifying that problem. Leveraging the technological expertise resident within The Jockey Club family of companies, we have developed an equine injury reporting system that is currently in the final stages of field testing with regulatory veterinarians in California. The full production system is set to be made available to racetracks later this summer, through the InCompass racetrack operations module that is in use at nearly every racetrack in North America.

On the subject of medication, The Jockey Club's position has been clear and consistent throughout the years. We have played an integral role in the industry effort to identify and either ban or regulate the use of performance-enhancing drugs and race-day medications by Thoroughbred race horses. As we've said many times before, horses should win on talent, ability and heart...not medication!

In 1990, The Jockey Club retained McKinsey & Company to undertake a project aimed at developing a national strategic plan for drug detection in the racing industry. Their report, titled "*Building a World-Class Drug Detection System for the Racing Industry*" was released in 1991. Three of the primary recommendations were fully or partially adopted by the Association of Racing Commissioners International ("RCI) in the years that followed.

During 2000, several events laid the groundwork for the development of a national organization committed to tackling issues relating to medication and post-race testing and following through with the recommendations contained in the McKinsey report.

In December of that year, the American Association of Equine Practitioners hosted a summit that brought together individuals representing 23 industry stakeholder groups to discuss development of a uniform national medication policy for racehorses. That meeting led to the formation of the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (“RMTC”).

Since then, the RMTC has primarily focused its efforts on the McKinsey “blueprint,” including the development and adoption of model medication rules and penalties, research to detect prohibited substances, establishment of thresholds and withdrawal times, race-day security, and industry communications. These recommendations include, but are not limited to, anabolic steroids.

The Jockey Club has been an active participant and one of the major financial contributors to RMTC since its inception.

At our 2004 Round Table Conference, we invited Dr. Don Catlin, the creator of the UCLA Olympic Drug testing lab, to speak about his experience and how it may help to prevent the use of prohibited drugs in horse racing. The outgrowth of that conference was the creation of the Equine Drug Research Institute (“EDRI”), formed as a committee of The Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation and in conjunction with Dr. Catlin’s Anti-Doping Research Laboratory.

EDRI’s mission was to fund a major research initiative designed to develop new tests for drugs that pose significant risk of potential abuse in equine sports, and to share that forthcoming data with qualified equine testing laboratories free of charge, to assure a fair and level playing field for all participants.

The Jockey Club has been an active participant and one of the major financial contributors to EDRI since its inception.

The tragic breakdown of Eight Belles at the conclusion of this year’s Kentucky Derby prompted The Jockey Club to announce the creation of a Thoroughbred Safety Committee “to review every facet of equine health, including breeding practices, medication, the rules of racing and track surfaces, and to recommend actions to be taken by the industry to improve the health and safety of Thoroughbreds.”

That committee has been meeting regularly since early May, and issued its first set of recommendations two days ago. In this first set of recommendations, the committee has called for:

- A ban on front toe grabs and other traction devices;
- Reforms in the equipment and usage of a riding crop by jockeys; and
- The adoption of the RMTC model rule to eliminate anabolic steroids in the training and racing of Thoroughbreds.

These recommendations have been endorsed and supported by a wide cross-section of over 15 leading industry organizations. We are confident that, with this unified support,

these initial recommendations will be implemented in timely fashion. Specifically, we are confident that 2008 will be the last year in which anabolic steroids will be permitted in our sport during training and racing.

The Jockey Club, and indeed all industry organizations seeking to improve the conditions of our sport, have a powerful ally to effect change – our fans. During the course of the Thoroughbred Safety Committee's early deliberations, we have received input from some of our long-time, highly respected players. The message that we have consistently heard from them is that they want a level playing field, especially with respect to medication. Rest assured they will be watching and keeping score at home.

In closing, I must emphasize that the Thoroughbred Safety Committee's work has just begun. Additional recommendations and findings will be provided at our annual Round Table Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY in mid-August, if not before. And the work of the committee will continue beyond then as a standing committee of The Jockey Club's Board of Stewards.

Specifically, The Stewards of Jockey Club and the members of the Thoroughbred Safety Committee are of the belief that the elimination of anabolic steroids is only a start. In order to restore the trust and confidence in our sport that our fans deserve, in order to protect our equine athletes, and in order to ensure the long-term health of the Thoroughbred breed, we must eliminate all performance-enhancing drugs from the sport.

We are committed to seeing this effort through, and as evidenced by the strong show of support for our initial set of recommendations, we are confident that many other organizations in the industry share our beliefs.

Thank you for your attention and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.