

# Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory

## Biologically Applied Testing

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Subject: Testing of Santa Anita Surface

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Dora Delgado  
Executive Vice President, Racing and Nominations  
Breeder's Cup  
Lexington, KY 40507

In preparation for Breeder's Cup we have performed extensive monitoring of the racing surfaces at Santa Anita. Santa Anita provides a unique venue for our work in support of Breeder's Cup. Santa Anita is a leader in racing surface monitoring in the horse racing industry with continuous testing of the track since 2010. From the start of our research which has focused on the development of consistent racing surfaces, Santa Anita has been a leading supporter and data from their track has been critical. Currently Santa Anita is one of a small number of race tracks that fully participates in the Maintenance Quality System (MQS). The MQS is the most comprehensive monitoring system for racing surfaces in the world. The MQS includes not only testing of the surface materials but also documentation of the design of the racing surface and daily monitoring of maintenance and testing of the surface on a daily basis.

Specifically, in preparation for Breeder's Cup, the surface material has been tested six times since August to ensure that the composition of the surface matches the target design for the racing surface. These targets are based on historical results and similar tracks and tested is done using industry standard procedures. Daily measurements of the surface include moisture, cushion depth and equipment settings. Since the start of the fall meet at Santa Anita this year an engineer from Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory has also been on site to support the monitoring and to perform biomechanical testing and regular ground penetrating radar tests.

The result of this testing is that the current Santa Anita surface matches the historical measurements of composition and performance. The consistency of the surface is as good or better than any time in the our ten years of monitoring. At the same time we are committed to improving the consistency and biomechanics of the racing surface. None of us can be complacent until all of the factors associated with safety of the horse and rider meet the highest possible standards.

Sincerely,



Michael "Mick" Peterson, Ph.D.  
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& Professor of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering  
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