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Notice to the Industry

ORC urges vigilance on care for race horses in adverse weather

The Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) Supervisor of Veterinarians is advising Official Veterinarians at all racetracks to be on alert for any hot weather effects on horses. Racetracks need to maintain adequate water facilities to cool down horses after warming up or racing.

As well, racing officials at all tracks will remind participants to take the necessary precautions and steps to cool horses. This information is found on ORC posters that were produced and have been displayed in racetrack paddocks, test barns and the race offices/ORC licensing areas at all Ontario racetracks for a number of years.

The ORC also points out that there is an established policy of allowing a trainer to scratch their horse should the trainer be concerned about the particular condition of the animal due to weather. If enough trainers are concerned, a vote can be called by officials re: cancelling the card.

More information on caring for horses can be viewed at the ORC web site, using the following link:

[ORC regulatory initiatives](#)

The protection of the health and welfare of the horse is of paramount concern to the ORC and to members of the racing community. An effort to monitor the horse in weather extremes is in keeping with this mandate.

John L. Blakney
Executive Director