



TEXAS RACING COMMISSION  
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# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**3/27/2015**

## **NEW NECROPSY PROGRAM NOW IN EFFECT**

The Commission has initiated an equine fatality review program to investigate race-related catastrophic injuries that result in the deaths or euthanasia of racehorses. This program is focused on three objectives: 1) to investigate the nature and cause of each injury; 2) to use the resulting information for an informal discovery and educational discussion; and 3) to identify any trends over time that might improve the state veterinarians' abilities to identify and protect high injury-risk horses during pre-race examinations.

In assessing each fatality, the commission veterinarian conducting the review will take into consideration: racing surface conditions; medical history (to include any treatments the horse received); interview information; and when appropriate, postmortem examination (necropsy) reports. Necropsy examinations will provide additional medical insight into the cause of each injury and will be performed by the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL).

Rule 319.16(a) provides that commission veterinarians may order a postmortem examination on any race animal that, while on an association's grounds, dies or suffers an injury in training or in competition and is subsequently euthanized. Rule 319.16(e) provides that the owner of a deceased race animal shall pay any charges due the veterinarian or laboratory which conducts the postmortem examination or subsequent laboratory tests.

**Effectively immediately, when the commission veterinarian orders a postmortem examination, the owner of the deceased animal will be notified, charged and obligated to pay the standard fee of \$175 for the necropsy performed at TVMDL.**