

July 8, 2024 AERC Board meeting minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Bruce Burton, Kristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Connie Caudill, Maureen Fehrs DVM, Bridget Helms, Dawn Hilliard, Nick Kohut DVM, Naomi Preston, Regina Rose, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, Maribel Paulson, Tami Rougeau, Olin Balch DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Melissa Ribley DVM, Diane Connolly, Eric Rueter and Laurie Underwood. AERC Editor Troy Smith was also on the call, standing in for Kathleen Henkel who was on vacation.

John Parke made a motion to accept the agenda, which was seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

John Parke made a motion, which was seconded by Susan Kasemeyer, to approve the June 10, 2024, board meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Jan Stevens, Marci Cunningham, Susan Garlinghouse DVM and Mike Maul were absent from the meeting.

The statistical report was presented by Nick Kohut DVM:

Membership as of 7/03/2023	4,058
Membership as of 7/01/2024	3,937
Sanction fees as of 7/01/2023	\$12,310
Sanction fees as of 7/04/2024	\$14,755
Rider fees as of 7/01/2023	\$27,575
Rider fees as of 7/01/2024	\$27,137
New members as of 7/03/2023	452
New members as of 7/01/2024	443

Maribel Paulson, chair of the Junior/Young Rider Committee, gave an update on what has been taking place throughout the regions to encourage participation by Juniors and Young Riders. The USA NE Team Challenge was very successful with 20 Young Riders in attendance. Maribel Paulson requested suggestions to promote better experiences at rides for them. The NW region has a program that pays the Junior rider entry fees. The Old Dominion had an anonymous sponsor to pay for all junior entry fees. There are plans for Junior and Young Rider activities at the 2024 National Championship ride in Oregon. Many suggestions and ideas were exchanged during the discussion and some exciting things are in the planning stages at several rides.

Motion from the Veterinary Committee to Update Rule 13 Appendix A Prohibited Substances
Melissa Ribley DVM presented the motion of the Veterinary Committee to add medroxyprogesterone acetate (Depo-provera) to AERC Rule 13 Appendix A, Category of Prohibited Substances, which reads:

Add medroxyprogesterone acetate to Appendix A Prohibited Substances.

Change Appendix B Categories of Prohibited Substances from 12. Hormonal products (natural or synthesized) except for progesterone or similar acting rogestogens in mares only, administered for the purpose of controlling the estrus cycle to: 12. Hormonal products except for altrenogest in mares only, administered for the purpose of controlling the estrus cycle.

Change Appendix C Allowed Substances from 7. Progesterone and similar acting rogestogens such as altrenogest only in mares to control estrus cycles to 7. Altrenogest in mares only, administered for the purpose of controlling the estrus cycle.

Medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA) is a synthetic progestin hormone that is used in mares in an attempt to suppress behavioral estrus and has a reported mild quieting effect.

There is no FDA approved MPA product for use in horses in the U.S., only compounded products. The safety and efficacy of compounded MPA has come under scrutiny since there have been sudden deaths reported with its use in horses, and research(1) has shown that MPA does not control estrus in mares. Many veterinarians believe MPA modifies behavior by producing a calming effect in the horse and does not have a therapeutic benefit that goes beyond this behavior modification. Because of this, in 2019 the AAEP (American Association of Equine Practitioners) published a statement(2) that recommends MPA not be administered to horses in competition.

The prohibition of MPA may help to prevent sudden death in horses secondary to its use in endurance mares. This prohibition will also help protect the integrity of our sport since the primary use of MPA is to produce behavior modification through its calming effects.

To be implemented December 1, 2024.

Supporting materials

(1) Depro-provera (medroxyprogesterone) – Does this Medication Block Estrus in Mares? Patrick M. McCue DVM, PhD, Diplomate American College of Theriogenologists

(2) AAEP.org Resource Library Position Statement on the Use of Medroxyprogesterone acetate in Competition Horses

During the discussion, the date for implementation was amended from “immediately” to the start of the new season – December 1, 2024. This will give time for the information to be printed in the Endurance News.

The only progesterone allowed for mares by AERC is Altrenogest commonly known as Regu-Mate. After a thorough discussion, Tami Rougeau made a motion to approve the motion from the Veterinary Committee with the amended implementation date, which was seconded by John Parke. Motion passed unanimously.

Nick Kohut DVM, gave a brief description of the procedures at the midyear meeting and reviewed some items that he plans to have on the agenda.

John Parke moved to adjourn at 8:46 p.m., seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill