

November 11, 2024, AERC Board Meeting Minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Bruce Burton, Khristin Seymore-Norsworthy, Connie Caudill, Marci Cunningham, 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, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Tami Rougeau, Olin Balch DVM, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Melissa Ribley DVM, Diane Connolly, Mike Maul, Eric Rueter, and Laurie Underwood. Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and AERC-I Committee Chair Tom Rajala were also on the call.

Absent - Jan Stevens

Susan Garlinghouse DVM made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

A motion to approve the October 14, 2024 minutes was made by Susan Garlinghouse DVM and seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel presented the statistical report:

Membership as of 11/13/2023	4,402
Membership as of 11/5/2024	4,254
Sanction fees as of 11/5/2023	\$12,800
Sanction fees as of 11/5/2024	\$15,485
Rider fees as of 11/5/2023	\$50,818
Rider fees as of 11/5/2024	\$52,514
New members as of 11/5/2023	622
New members as of 11/5/2024	592
Ride Starts as of 11/30/2023	11,739
Ride Starts as of 11/05/2024	10,961

Tom Rajala, chair of the AERC International Committee, updated the Board on the FEI rides held in conjunction with AERC rides at Spruce Creek, Camp Far West and Broxton Bridge.

Motion from Protest & Grievance Committee to Add a Mediator

A motion was made by the Protest & Grievance Committee to add Jane Kirkeide as an additional mediator. This would then bring the list of available mediators to four, which would then hopefully eliminate a backlog in the protest process. Motion from committee passed unanimously.

Motion from the Veterinary Committee Regarding the Addition of nasal strips (“Flair Strips”) to AERC Rule 13 Appendix F - Prohibited Treatments

Melissa Ribley presented the following motion on behalf of the Veterinary Committee:

Motion: Addition of nasal strips (“Flair Strips”) to AERC Rule 13 Appendix F - Prohibited Treatments.

Background, analysis and benefit: “Flair Strips” are the most well known and commonly used nasal strips. Nasal strips are used in the horse with the intent to facilitate easier breathing and to improve airflow to the lungs. The intent of their use is not consistent with the premise of AERC Drug Rule 13 which is “Endurance equines should compete under their natural abilities...”

Additionally, kinesiology tape is currently prohibited. The prohibition of nasal strips would be consistent with prohibiting the use of medical tape for performance altering purposes.

The addition of nasal strips to the Prohibited Treatment Appendix will provide guidance and clarity to AERC members.

To be implemented immediately.

Motion from committee passed unanimously.

Motion from the Veterinary Committee Regarding the Addition of Nebulization to AERC Rule 13 Appendix F - Prohibited Treatments

Melissa Ribley presented the following motion on behalf of the Veterinary Committee:

Motion: Update Rule 13 Appendix F- Prohibited Treatments to include the use of a nebulizer.

Background, analysis and benefit: Nebulization is the process of turning liquids into a mist that can be inhaled and delivered to the lungs. The most commonly used medications administered to the horse by way of nebulization are prohibited. Some nebulizer masks have sleeves that are inserted into the nostril, and these would be prohibited as the insertion of an instrument into the horse is prohibited. However, the veterinary committee recommends categorically prohibiting nebulization, to include the administration of allowed substances such as saline and to include nebulizer masks without sleeves. The optics of nebulization is the administration of medications. Some nebulization masks are already prohibited and some are not. For clarity and consistency, the prohibition of all nebulization is recommended.

The addition of nebulization to the Prohibited Treatment Appendix will provide guidance and clarity to AERC members.

To be implemented immediately.

Motion from committee passed unanimously.

Maribel Paulson updated the Board on plans to get Juniors more involved. She is open to ideas. Maribel Paulson encourages all eligible AERC Young Riders to apply for the AERC Scholarship. Applications are due by February 1.

Connie Caudill made a motion, which was seconded by Laurie Underwood, to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary.