

EFFECT OF FUROSEMIDE ON BODY WEIGHT LOSS AND RECOVERY IN RACING STANDARDBREDS. R.J. Coleman, A.C. St. Lawrence, L.M. Lawrence and A.M. Roberts, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546. *Presented at the Sixth International Conference on Equine Exercise Physiology, September 2002, Lexington KY*

This study was conducted to compare bodyweight loss and recovery in Standardbred horses receiving furosemide to horses not treated with furosemide. Thirty Standardbred horses from commercial racing stables were studied during the spring parimutuel meeting at the Red Mile in June 2001. Fourteen horses received furosemide 4 h prior to racing and sixteen horses received no furosemide (controls). Furosemide was administered according to the rules of the Kentucky Racing Commission. Horses were weighed on the morning of race day (initial body weight), prior to warm-up, after racing and the next day. Changes in body weight were calculated as a percentage increase or decrease from initial body weight. Prior to warm-up horses that received furosemide had a mean body weight reduction of $1.3 \pm 0.63\%$ ($P < 0.01$), compared to a mean increase of $0.19 \pm 0.63\%$ for controls. Furosemide treated horses had greater ($P < 0.03$) post-race body weight loss at $3.55\% \pm 0.55\%$ than the controls at $2.71 \pm 0.66\%$. On the morning after racing, bodyweight was below initial values by $0.9 \pm 0.55\%$ for furosemide treated horses and $1.24 \pm 0.35\%$ for controls. Furosemide administration affected post-race body weight loss but did not affect short term body weight recovery on the morning after racing.