



May 2, 2017

Lamarr Mitchell
Director of Race and Sports Book
MGM Grand

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On behalf of PETA and our 6.5 million supporters, I am writing to ask you to follow the model of the NFL injury reports and issue full injury and medication reports for all horses entered in the Kentucky Derby.

The Kentucky Derby is the most heavily bet horse race in North America. In 2016, \$125 million was wagered on this single race. More than \$10 billion was wagered nationwide. Yet, despite being federally regulated through the Interstate Horse Racing Act, gambling venues fail to disclose essential information that would significantly affect bettors' decisions. Bettors are not privy to the most fundamental data about injuries and medications, beyond race-day Lasix, when making their wagers. Unlike the NFL, which issues injury reports, there is no policy in horse racing requiring disclosure of such critical information. This lack of transparency unfairly impacts bettors, as only select industry insiders know the physical problems with the horses. The general betting public is kept in the dark.

Full disclosure of medication and injury records for the month leading up to the Kentucky Derby would also be a significant step toward protecting the horses from being dangerously medicated and raced with preexisting injuries. The racing industry's own research shows this is the biggest risk factor for fatal breakdowns—and more than 1,000 horses die on race tracks every year. After the inaugural release for the Derby, we ask that you release injury reports for all races you simulcast.

It would be in your own best interest to demand these records from racing jurisdictions as a condition of simulcasting. [Statistics](#) from the Nevada sports books show that in 1998, when Real Quiet nearly won the Triple Crown, more than \$736 million was bet. The following years brought high-profile tragedies with the breakdowns and deaths Barbaro and Eight Belles, as well as a series of exposés, including PETA's [video](#) of trainer Steve Asmussen's misuse of medication. By 2014, when California Chrome nearly captured the Triple Crown, the total amount wagered had plummeted to \$344 million.

Best regards,

Kathy Guillermo
Senior Vice President

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