



September 1, 2022

Julie Andres
Chair
Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission

Brian Ohorilko
Director of Gaming
Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission

Derron Heldt
Vice President of Racing
Prairie Meadows

Via e-mail

Dear Ms. Andres and Messrs. Ohorilko and Heldt:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals U.S.—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to request that you immediately investigate jockey José Beltran and others who have participated in unregulated horse races and revoke their Iowa racing licenses pursuant to your authority to suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee “has been involved in any fraudulent or corrupt practices, including, but not limited to ... conduct in Iowa or elsewhere that has been dishonest, *undesirable*, or *detrimental to, or reflects negatively on, the integrity or best interests of racing*” Iowa Admin. Code r. 491-6.5(3)(i) [*emphasis added*].

PETA recently released the results of a [10-month investigation into underground Quarter Horse racing](#), exposing widespread doping with various substances, including methamphetamine, cocaine, and Ritalin; the use of electric shock devices; injuries, including fatal ones, to both horses and jockeys; and the exchange of hundreds of thousands of dollars in apparently illegal gambling at Rancho El Centenario, the largest black market track, or “bush track,” in Georgia. PETA has now [filed complaints](#) with state and local authorities calling for criminal investigations into these and other acts that appear to violate numerous laws. Our video footage is [available here](#), and photographs are [available here](#).

Many of the jockeys PETA filmed wearing electric shock devices and looking on as horses were injected also race at regulated tracks. They include [Beltran](#), who is scheduled to participate in the upcoming races at Prairie Meadows on September 2 and 3, and [Alex Carrillo](#), who was recently photographed at the unregulated track Rancho El 29 at 57288 S. 190th St. in Pacific Junction, Iowa, in August.

Beltran:

PEOPLE FOR
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OF ANIMALS

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- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)



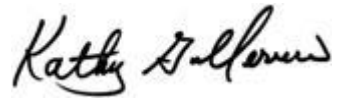
Carrillo:



We urge you to investigate and take all appropriate action, as those who participate in these unregulated races put horses' and other jockeys' lives in danger and cause the entire Quarter Horse racing industry to risk losing its social license to operate.

Thank you for your time and consideration. May I please hear from you?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathy Guillermo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Guillermo
Senior Vice President
Equine Matters Department