



September 21, 2022

Robert C. Pate  
Chair  
Texas Racing Commission

Tim Williams  
Racing Secretary  
Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie

Via e-mail

Dear Messrs. Pate and Williams:

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 as well as others who have participated in unregulated horse races and revoke their Texas racing licenses pursuant to your authority to suspend or revoke a license “if it is determined that the licensee is engaged in activities or practices that are detrimental to the best interests of the public, racing animals, or to the racing industry” [Texas Racing Commission Rules of Racing § 311.6(b)(5)] and if a licensee “subject[s] a race animal to cruel or inhumane treatment or, through act or neglect, subject[s] a race animal to unnecessary suffering” [Texas Racing Commission Rules of Racing § 311.207, 311.308].

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 [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 also race at regulated tracks and were filmed looking on as horses were injected. Many wore electric shock devices. According to Texas Racing Commission Rules of Racing § 311.215(a)(2), 311.6(b)(1)(A), “[A]n electrical shocking device ... designed to increase or decrease the speed of a race animal or to unnaturally depress, stimulate, or excite a race animal” is considered contraband, and possessing any such device on a racetrack is grounds for license suspension or revocation. Among these jockeys was [Beltran](#), who is scheduled to participate in the \$50,000 Lip Chip LLC Stakes at Lone Star Park on September 24.

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José Beltran holds an electric shock device.

We urge you to investigate and take all appropriate action, as those who participate in these unregulated races put other jockeys' lives as well as those of horses in danger and certainly are engaged in practices detrimental to the entire Quarter Horse racing industry.

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

Sincerely,

Kathy Guillermo  
Senior Vice President  
Equine Matters Department

cc: Donald Ahrens, Treasurer, Organization of Racing Investigators

Merlinda Gonzalez, Director of Security, Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie

Amy Cook, Executive Director, Texas Racing Commission