

For Immediate Release  
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## **ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION AT RACETRACK 8 HORSES KILLED IN 8 DAYS OF RACING**

San Diego Animal Advocates, an area non-profit animal rights organization, is calling on the California Horse Racing Board to suspend further racing and to investigate the rash of deaths and injuries on the track at Del Mar. Eight horses have been killed in races or in training in as many days and several other horses have sustained serious injuries.

“Horse racing is inherently dangerous but eight deaths in eight days is very alarming and truly an outrage,” said Jane Cartmill, President of San Diego Animal Advocates. “Something is certainly suspect with the Del Mar conditions or procedures. We are calling for the prudent and humane course of action. Close the track before more horses are killed.”

Rick Arthur, medical director of the CHRFB, was quoted yesterday in the San Diego Union-Tribune, saying “It’s too early to have any idea whether it’s an issue or not. It’s too early to take a position on whether there’s a problem.” Cartmill asks, “What is the magic number of dead horses that constitutes a problem in his eyes?”

Cartmill states that the number of deaths and injuries are being couched and obfuscated. “I participated in protests at the track this weekend where patrons accused me of lying. They did not believe a horse was killed on opening day or that several more had been killed since. People are shocked and upset when they learn the facts,” she said.

Fatal breakdowns are usually due to pre-existing injuries, often masked with drugs. Legislation to stop that practice is pending. The Horse Racing Integrity and Safety Act, introduced in 2013, would authorize an independent anti-doping organization to regulate American horse racing. The bill has not passed due to pressure on Congress from special interests affiliated with racing, according to the bill’s author.

Local activists and concerned citizens plan to continue protesting at the racetrack next weekend if the CHRFB does not close the track for investigation.

*San Diego Animal Advocates is an all-volunteer group established in 1984; dedicated to the abolition of animal abuse, neglect and exploitation through education, direct action and community outreach.*