



*Division of Racing*

## *Horses first.* That's how our Racing Division staff is trained.

It sounds simple, but what starts as a simple premise goes to the core of our industry. Happy, healthy horses perform to the best of their ability. They run truer to form for our pari-mutuel customers, they maximize return on investment for their breeders and owners, they help create a safer training and racing environment for those who work around them, and they retire from the racetrack to productive second careers.

Ensuring the happiness and healthiness of our equine athletes is a big job, and it's where our knowledge about welfare and science intersects. The Racing Division's veterinary program is among the most comprehensive in the country. We use science and regulation to help us document and maintain the healthiness of our racehorses, and we're not afraid to step in if intervention becomes necessary. But that's not enough.

Equine welfare, by definition, addresses psychological as well as physiological well-being. Psychological well-being is dependent largely on housing, nutrition, health care, environment, and handling. While the Racing Division is committed to ensuring the happiness of our racehorses, we must rely heavily on their caregivers for this task.

The Racing Division of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission is proud to partner with our hard-working, dedicated horsemen and women and our racetrack operators for another successful year of live racing in the commonwealth. We take very seriously our shared role as stewards of our industry, and we know you do, too. Together, we must hold each other accountable for putting the horse first in everything we do.

Because when we do right by the horse, all the rest follows.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission