Editorial Viewpoints

Racing honesty hinges on owners

Racing is predicated on horses to race, and in that concept it is obvious that owners have a fundamental responsibility to protect their sport.

There would be few problems in racing if sufficient altruism existed among our owners, for it is the owner who has the power to halt infractions of rules.

Is it right for an owner to look the other way when his horse is medicated contrary to the rule?

Is it right for an owner to permit the engagement of a rider guilty of a serious infraction when that infraction has been reviewed in an open agency hearing and sustained by the racing commission?

Is it right for an owner to tell the caretaker, the trainer, or the rider: "I don't care what you do—just don't tell me—I don't want to know about it?"

A licence to participate in racing is not an inherent right. It is an earned privilege. With every privilege, there is a parallel responsibility. The major responsibility here is on the source—the owner. The onus for honesty in racing, and adherence to the rules of racing, is on the owner.

American Association of Equine Practitioners Newsletter September 1983

Embryo transfer in humans

The present moment, when surrogate embryo transfer is being tested in primates and initially attempted in humans, seems the appropriate time to inventory the ethical issues that the clinical use of this new technique may raise. Safety considerations and accompanying techniques concern 3 biologic individuals—the oocyte or embryo donor, the embryo itself, and the embryo recipient. . . .

The physical risk differential is most striking in the case of the donor. An oocyte donor must undergo inhalation or conduction anesthesia during the oocyte recovery process. Therefore, it seems unlikely that most women would volunteer to undergo oocyte recovery merely for donation purposes, except under extraordinary circumstances. Much more likely is the scenario in which an oocyte has already been harvested for the woman's own in vitro fertilization and is not needed, thereby becoming available for donation. In contrast, with embryo transfer after in vivo fertilization, the physical risks to the donor-in this case, an embryo donor-are greatly reduced, but some hazards remain. Most important are the potential risks for uterine lavage—and, in the future, of possible superovulation—to the embryo donor. In veterinary medicine similar nonsurgical tech-

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niques have been employed successfully to recover bovine and equine embryos without apparent ill effect, although the nonhuman donors are either anesthetized or sedated.

NOADD EA Journal of the

NOADD American Medical Association
Oct 28, 1983

Wildlife rabies increasing

Of great concern to all health care practitioners is the alarming increase in sylvanic rabies, especially among skunks, raccoons, and bats. In 1981, over 7,100 cases of animal rabies documented by laboratory testing were reported to the Centers for Disease Control. This represents a 69% increase in animal rabies, when compared with the yearly average of rabies cases reported during the previous 5 years. Though the most significant increase in animal rabies occurred in the sylvanic population, a startling and parallel trend is now becoming apparent in the domestic animal population during the last several years. In 1979, 632 rabies positive domestic animal cases were reported to the Centers for Disease Control. This figure jumped to 1,060 cases in 1981, a 68% increase in just 3 years. . . . S. T. HAYNE, J. R. HEIL,

A9-449
S. T. HAYNE, J. R. HEIL, and R. B. Moeller Military Medicine December 1983

Scientific editing

Readers know how difficult it sometimes can be to get their own papers published. But few realize just how demanding and sensitive the editor's job is. Scientific and scholarly editors are among the gatekeepers of science. They carry an enormous responsibility, since their decisions may alter or affect future careers. Although most journals have an editorial advisory board, and referees do assist editors in choosing manuscripts for publication, the final responsibility for deciding what gets published rests with the editor. Selecting manuscripts requires the editor to walk a fine line between screening out bad science and publishing innovative, even if unorthodox, work. . .

Gatekeeping may be the editor's most important job, but it represents only a fraction of his or her responsibilities. Responsible editors must insure not only that each paper represents good science, but that it is written in clear language. Editors must correct grammar, syntax, punctuation, and spelling, and clarify ambiguous or illogical writing. This is an exacting

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