

# Polo Pony Scenario

AWJAC 2018

Team Scenario

# Questions to answer:

1. Please decide whether these polo ponies (Horse 1 and Horse 2) should compete in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chukker of the Annual Rocky Mountain Arena Challenge. Why or why not?
2. Perform an assessment of the polo ponies temporary housing (i.e. stalls at ARDEC), transport to Colorado, health status, and competition readiness. Present and discuss positive and negative aspects of their current welfare.

# Scenario

- Colorado State University (CSU) is hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Arena Challenge
- CSU did not have enough horses for the match (they needed 12 and only had 10) so they leased 2 horses from a ranch in Arizona and transported the two horses to CSU to participate in the polo match.
- Horse # 1 and 2 are the two horses transported from Arizona to compete in the match.
- This event is structured like all other intercollegiate matches. There are two teams, three players on each team, and 12 horses. The match included four chukkers of 7 min each.
- The play structure is as follows for Horse 1 and Horse 2:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> chukker: Horse 1 and Horse 2 play
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> chukker: Horse 1 and Horse 2 rest
  - 15 min half time
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> chukker: Horse 1 and Horse 2 play
  - 4<sup>th</sup> chukker: Horse 1 and Horse 2 rest
- Tack is removed after the first chukker to be used on other horses.
- **You are observing the horses during the 2<sup>nd</sup> chukker. They have just completed the 1<sup>st</sup> chukker and are resting between chukkers.**

# Information about Horse 1 and Horse 2

- Horse 1:

- Weight = 950 lbs
- Age = 12 years
- Color = Bay
- Breed = Argentine thoroughbred
- Sex = Mare

- Horse 2:

- Weight = 1025 lbs
- Age = 13 years
- Color = Bay
- Breed = Argentine thoroughbred
- Sex = Mare
- Other = has Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage and is given Lasix before competing in a match

# Post 1<sup>st</sup> Chukker Stats for Horse 1 and Horse 2

- These measurements were completed within 2 min of 1<sup>st</sup> chukker completion. Heart rate (HR) was taken manually by the team veterinarian. A small blood sample was collected and analyzed via an iSTAT blood gas analyzer to obtain partial pressure of oxygen (PaO<sub>2</sub>) and lactate (LAC). The horses have 20 more minutes of rest before the 3<sup>rd</sup> chukker starts.
- Horse 1:
  - HR = 144 bpm
  - average resting HR for Horse 1 (taken in AZ) = 37 bpm
  - PaO<sub>2</sub> = 93 mm Hg
  - LAC = 5.6 mmol/L
- Horse 2:
  - HR = 158 bpm
  - average resting HR for Horse 2 (taken in AZ) = 40 bpm
  - PaO<sub>2</sub> = 84 mm Hg
  - LAC = 5.2 mmol/L

# Exercise Regimen of Horse 1 and Horse 2

- Both Horse 1 and 2 reside in Arizona
- Horses exercise with a polo team 6 times per week between 1 – 2 hours at a time

## Environment in Arizona and Colorado

- Ambient temperature and humidity in Arizona at this time of year are on average 76° / 51° F (high/low) and 44%, respectively. The altitude in Phoenix is 1,086 ft.
- Ambient temperature and humidity in Colorado at this time of year are on average 51° / 25° F (high/low) and 40%, respectively. The altitude in Fort Collins is 5,003 ft.

# Housing and Feeding in Arizona

- Horse 1 and 2 are normally housed in Arizona in dry lots with other polo ponies.
- They are fed from round bales that are checked and replenished daily.
- They always have access to clean water.
- They are given free choice access to salt and mineral blocks.



# Transport conditions from Arizona to Colorado

- Horse 1 and 2 left Phoenix early in the morning on Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- They traveled in the trailer that is on-site with 2 other horses.
- The 2 other horses were dropped off at a ranch outside of Colorado Springs, CO.
- The drive from Phoenix, AZ to Colorado Springs, CO took 13 hours.
- In Colorado Springs, all the horses were unloaded. Horse 1 and 2 were given water and allowed to move around freely in a holding pen.
- Horse 1 and 2 were reloaded into the trailer after an hour rest and traveled alone in the trailer for the remainder of the journey to Fort Collins, CO.
- The drive from Colorado Springs, CO to Fort Collins, CO took 3 hours.
- The trailer arrived at ARDEC (the facility you are currently at) very late in the evening on the same day. Horse 1 and 2 were unloaded into their stalls for the night.



# Overall Timeline

- Very early Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup>, Horse 1 and Horse 2 were loaded onto the trailer on-site and departed Phoenix, AZ
- Very late Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup>, Horse 1 and Horse 2 arrived in Fort Collins, CO at ARDEC
- Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>, Horse 1 and Horse 2 are competing in 3<sup>rd</sup> Rocky Mountain Arena Challenge
- Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup>, Horse 1 and Horse 2 are departing Fort Collins, CO and returning to Phoenix, AZ