

AgNews

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901



To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

For Immediate Release: Contact Anne Fitzgerald
August 21, 2008 **800.282.8685 (DE only)**
302.698.4520
302.242.4092 (Cell)

Number of pages: 1

Delaware Commission “digs in” and Looks to Ban Toe Grabs in 2009

At their August 19, 2008 meeting, the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission (DTRC) made an announcement that they would promulgate rules to ban the use of Toe Grabs over 2 millimeters. The move was in accordance with the Jockey Club Safety Committee recommendations formally presented at the Jockey Club Round Table meeting held on August 17, 2008. Toe grabs are used for traction. The actual recommendation states the following: “An immediate ban on toe grabs other than wear plates with a height no greater than 2 millimeters, and the elimination of bends, jar calks, stickers and any other traction device worn on the front shoes of Thoroughbred horses while racing or training on all racing surfaces.”

DTRC Chairman, Bernard J. Daney stated “The scientific evidence and studies suggest that there is a direct link between front toe grabs and injuries. The Commission is charged with protecting the animals, and if eliminating toe grabs leads to fewer injuries and catastrophic incidents, then this Commission is 100% committed to enforce the ban.”

The Jockey Club Safety Committee also called for the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) and all North American racing authorities to implement this ban by model rule as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2008. The ARCI Model Rules Working Group is scheduled to next meet on September 8 – 9, 2008 in Deadwood, South Dakota.

#