

## **USTA Equine Health & Wellness Database (EHWD)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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#### **What is the EHWD?**

The U.S. Trotting Association's Equine Health & Wellness Database (EHWD) is an industry-wide reporting system designed to collect information involving equine injuries, illnesses, diseases, wellness concerns, and related incidents affecting Standardbreds both on and off the racetrack.

The system was first announced in June of 2024 and is now fully implemented and operational

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#### **What is the purpose of the database?**

The purpose of the EHWD is to:

- Improve industry understanding of equine health and safety trends
- Identify potential injury and illness patterns
- Support future safety initiatives and welfare discussions
- Assist with long-term trend analysis and research
- Provide a centralized information resource for the industry

The database is intended to support informed decision-making through meaningful data collection.

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#### **Is the EHWD only for racing incidents?**

No. The EHWD was intentionally designed to include more than race-day incidents. Reporting may include:

- Racing accidents, training incidents and farm injuries
- Transportation-related injuries or events
- Illnesses and diseases
- Pre-existing conditions
- General wellness concerns
- Other horse-related incidents

A broader data set helps create a more accurate picture of equine health and welfare

## Who can submit information?

Any current USTA member connected to a horse may submit information through their USTA My Account, including:

- Owners
- Trainers
- Veterinarians
- Caretakers
- Racetrack personnel
- Racing officials
- State employees or regulators

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## How is information submitted?

Participants may submit reports by:

1. Logging into **myaccount.ustrotting.com**
2. Navigating to the “**Miscellaneous**” section
3. Selecting the **Equine Health & Wellness Database** link

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## Is reporting required under industry rules?

The EHWD reporting concept is consistent with broader industry efforts involving equine welfare, transparency, and data collection standards.

In 2025, the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) amended its Model Rules to require judges to submit accident reports to the USTA in order to maintain a centralized database.

The USTA has also adopted rules and policies supporting the continued development and use of centralized reporting systems involving equine health and safety information.

The EHWD should therefore be viewed not solely as a USTA initiative, but as part of broader industry efforts supporting modern equine welfare and racing integrity practices.

## **Why is participation important?**

The value of the EHWD depends entirely on industry participation.

Without meaningful reporting volume:

- Trend analysis becomes limited
  - Risk factors are harder to identify
  - Opportunities for preventive measures may be missed
  - The usefulness of the database is reduced
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## **How can regulators assist?**

State racing regulators can support the EHWD by:

- Encouraging participation among licensees
- Assisting with industry awareness efforts
- Reinforcing the importance of data collection
- Supporting cooperative industry-wide participation
- Helping normalize reporting as part of modern equine welfare efforts

## **Who should regulators contact with questions?**

For additional information or assistance regarding the EHWD:

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