

WEST VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION

CRUELTY POLICY

The Thoroughbred Racing Rule, 178 CSR 1, and the Greyhound Racing Rule, 178 CSR 2, provide that the Stewards/Judges and the Racing Commission may take disciplinary action against a racing permit holder who engages in any form of cruelty, mistreatment, neglect, abuse or abandonment of a thoroughbred or greyhound. Accordingly, the Stewards/Judges and the Racing Commission may, upon sufficient proof, institute administrative proceedings against a permit holder to issue sanctions against him or her, up to and including revocation of the person's racing permit.

All reported acts of alleged animal cruelty, mistreatment, neglect, abuse or abandonment will be investigated by the Racing Commission's investigator in consultation with a State Veterinarian.

In addition to instituting proceedings against a permit holder, it is the policy of the West Virginia Racing Commission to report instances of animal cruelty, mistreatment, neglect, abuse or abandonment to the appropriate local law enforcement authorities for possible criminal prosecution pursuant to West Virginia Code § 61-8-19. The Commission and its Stewards/Judges shall consult with a State Veterinarian to determine what matters should be reported to law enforcement.