The Study of Management Issues and Horses’ Escort and Quarantine in Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival: Based on Escort and Quarantine to the Horses in Hong Kong Jockey Club

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Abstract. This paper mainly introduces the research experience of Hong Kong Jockey Club horses’ escort quarantine by means of literature review, empirical method, case study method and analogy method, and it elaborates the horses’ escort, quarantine works and management matters when the horses are escorted before and after the Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival. This assay aims at providing scientific theoretical supports and building the solid foundation of quarantine for the future of the Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival.

Introduction
In Wuhan, from March to December, the horse racing season is held regularly every two weeks, this event has gradually become an important part of the residents’ daily lives in Wuhan, in public’s mind of Wuhan, since Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival was launched in 2003, it has been gradually tied with "clothing, food, shelter, means of travel", and has become the "fifth elements" in their lives. However, there is a problem that there is no place to cultivate thoroughbred horses in this crowded city, just rely on imports. The horse belong to a kind of excitable animal, they will panic, anxiety, kick around if they are locked in a cargo truck or plane stables several days. Therefore, people need to manage carefully when they transport these valuable horses.

When these horses are escorted from overseas, people generally choose aircraft which are modified specially, these aircraft are the same with the passenger planes, but these aircraft have no seats. However, this kind of cargo is not safe. In 1987, a plane that carrying 18 horses crashed on a highway outside the city of Mexico. The stables in the cabin were displaced during flight, and only two horses survived. In addition, there are many risks of transnational transport of vehicles, such as the possibility of hip, bone fractures, horse sickness, etc., resulting in these horses having to die by euthanasia.

Results and Analysis

The Quarantine of Horses Which Anticipate in Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival before Escort

Needless to say, the horses which participate in the Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival must undergo strict quarantine process. Each horse has to experience examination three times from other countries where they are escorted from to the pace of Wuhan competition eventually to the home. The first is the place where the horses leave; the process must be quarantined by the local animal department of quarantine, screened by veterinary team to many diseases, including equine influenza, equine toxic artery, trypanosomiasis, equine infectious anemia and other quarantine projects. If the results are all negative, veterinaries will sign on the health certificate, and then these horses will be transported to Wuhan. When they arrived at the DongFang MaCheng of Wuhan, the first thing of the reception staffs is check their quarantine certificates before receiving them.
Also in the Hong Kong Jockey Club, these horses are controlled strictly before boarding the flight, in order to ensure that the horses do not carry dangerous virus, they must be isolated for three weeks. The management of quarantine zone is very strict, in three weeks, only the relevant personnel can contact the horses. The official veterinarians will check and assess whether the horses are suitable for going out, the horse which test results are all negative can meet the requirements, and can be transported to the field. If some index of the horse is positive, it will be took to the quarantine station. If they spread the diseases to Hong Kong, the consequences are unthinkable. Last time the Hong Kong Jockey Club broke out epidemic is in 90s, there are many horses were infected with herpes in stables which belong to famous John Moore and this disease began to become popular, then these horses had to die by euthanasia. In those few months, Hong Kong Jockey Club lost 30 billion Yuan because of the suspension. After investigation, the horse carrying the bacteria in 1992 was imported from England and Ireland, so the veterinary team must avoid such incidents.

The Management of Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival during the Escort

The first thing of the trip to Wuhan is let the horses wait quietly in the special stable trailer. The checked carriage will escort the horses to Wuhan which passes the quarantine. The longer waiting time of horses, they are more restless. They are not get used to and may feel something wrong when they stand on the trailer for so long. General, grooms would make stable ground covered with wood shavings, because the horses in more stable on wood shavings, they do not like be splashed by urine, if it happens anyway, they do not urinate, so people have to pave shavings.

The edge of inclined plate which is used in the stable is sharp, so the horses are a bit dangerous when they go down, as long as the horses are crashed one time, they may no longer be able to participate in competition. The whole weight of horses’ bodies are pressed on the four thin cannon bones, each cannon bone must bear the weight of 100 kg, if there is a leg is injured, the other legs will be very difficult to hold the extra weight, the horseshoe will become inflamed. Horses do not have muscle below the knee, the blood moves through the legs is less, so the wound is hard to cure. Sometimes the injured horses have to die by euthanasia. In order to avoid horses get hurt in the shipment, the horses’ forelegs are wrapped with protective clothing.

The horses start to ship after they get on stables successfully. Drivers can feel the conditions of horses, if the cars make a turn but the horses move to the wrong direction, they may fall down. People think the horses are bounded in the cars; in fact the horses stand on the cars. There is 360 degree closed-circuit monitoring in the cars which can make people always pay attention to them. When they transport horses, checked carriage is best not to stop, because some horses will be agitated to traffic jams, they would barge and sometimes they even scared to jump out or lean out of the handrail, but as long as the cars move, they will be relieved, so people try to avoid congestion time and sections.

If the horses are knocked in the cars for too long, it will damage their health. Because when horses eat they will lower the head to let the breathing unobstructed. However, during the transportation, they usually unable to low their heads in the carriage, so it is easy to let their get infected by germs, the upright posture let the horses are hard to row out the dust and pathogens from the respiratory tract, if the bacteria enter the lungs it will cause pleuropneumonia and shipping fever which are fatal.

The risk of the short distance transport is very low, but for the Hong Kong Jockey Club, as the source of horses are long-term depend on foreign import, the risk of horse will greatly increase by long flight. It can be said that the horses which participate in the speed race is one of the most difficult animal to transport. The reason is their amazing strength: 60% of a horse’s weight is muscle, and most of the muscles are concentrated in the area of hind leg so they the very strong explosive force and strong strength when they kick legs. The horse even can break the fuselage of the aircraft by kicking. In order to avoid such incidents, the horses must be kept in specially designed stables which are made by reinforced plywood and fiberglass. In order to prevent the thoroughbred horse hurt each other, they have to be separated. Undoubted, The horse will kick if they under extreme pressure, so the stable must be strong enough avoid to be broken. The plate of stables can be adjusted; horses in first class have enough space to move. Due to the acidic urine will corrode the aluminum of aircraft, so for the
airline companies, the most important thing is not to let the horse urine leakage to avoid causing damage to the plane. So the stable floor is made by special rubber compounds and mount sealing layer on around bottom of stables to prevent leakage of urine.

The installation site of stables is very important in the plane, the weight of every stable box is 2000 kilograms, in order to make plane balance, each box must be stable in line, stable must be fixed in the body of plane, in order to prevent movement of the horses because of airflow during the trip and restless of the horses. Grooms sit above the cargo, so they can observe the horses in flight by going downstairs. The stables are weighed before, and shipping supervisors could place the stables to the specific position according to the weight balancing.

After the grooms and the horses’ board, the groom will feel obviously the heats which are emitted by horses. Hypothermia is the biggest problem to grooms, because the temperature of cabin will be 15 degrees higher than that of the outside. Although the horse and groom have the same fate, the grooms could have emergency oxygen bottle at least when the pressure of cabin suddenly drop, but the horses didn't have it. So people are the first in emergency. The grooms don’t want to anesthetic the horses by holding the risk of the horses’ respiratory failure, but they have to carry emergency supplies just in case. Horses sometimes become manic and kick somewhere. Grooms take sedatives and other drugs, if problem happened, it has to be solved.

It is important to provide a suitable feed for horses in flight, otherwise the horses may die. Horses eat nine kilograms of licorice every day in order to digest they have to drink 45 liters of water which will promote the secretion of gastric acid to digest the licorice. The plane cannot be placed the water trough, but if they do not have water, they will have intestinal obstruction which caused by licorice which lead to blockage in the intestines, finally they will need to have surgical treatments. In order to prevent dehydration, grooms make Semi dry silage which contains 50% of water; it is made by hays which are fermented for two weeks. This feed is relatively easy to digest which is a bit like oatmeal eating at breakfast or cereal with milk.

**The Horses of Wuhan International Racing Horses Quarantine after the Escort**

Because the horses may be infected with the virus during the process of the escort, so it must be treated with caution. Second physical examination is arranged after the horses check in Wuhan DongFang MaCheng temporarily; veterinarians of DongFang MaCheng quarantine the horses again to ensure the health of horses.

In the Hong Kong Jockey Club, before the horse get off the plane, the trailers of horses must be cleaned thoroughly by antifungal, germs and virus disinfectant, even the tires have to cleaned and disinfected thoroughly, after all these preparation, people can pick up the horses. After they reach the destination safely, the horses are sent to Hong Kong local quarantine station to have isolation test where they can finally spread legs.

After the quarantine escort, they will give the horse a drink of water, and take its temperature; some horses will have the phenomenon of low fever after landing. Generally the horse will return to normal body temperature within a few hours, if it is the persistence of the high temperature they will be mainly observed. At the same time, they should check on the horses whether infected with shipping fever. Shipping fever is a common pathogen infection. The horses in escorting, not a doctor, there may be suffering from this disease. In addition, the tired horse is very vulnerable to infection. And the change of the environment will bring pressure to horses, the long-distance flight more let them nervous, during that period, if there is a problem in the immune system, it is easy to be infected. For human, in times of stress on the mouth blistering, throat discomfort, cough, and for horse, they will also happen. So the strict quarantine is to monitor their health. After the arrival of the Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival ending, before the horses going home, they also need to kept in quarantine from Wuhan Quarantine department of the third physical examination quarantine, and issued a health certificate in order to be released.
Conclusions and Suggestions

In short, the work of the horses’ escort and quarantine is the foundation and essential factor of Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival is held smoothly. Because of the special status, high price, feeding condition and the extremely demanding sanitary condition of horses, and also horses come from different places have different degree of health. Therefore, the horses’ quarantine and quarantine supervision before and after escort have become important point to the racing world.

Wuhan International Horse Racing Festival Organizing Committee should modest learn from the Hong Kong Jockey Club about the management experience of how to escort horse by long-distance aircraft, this behavior aims at build solid foundation for foreign horses can enter the Wuhan DongFang MaCheng smoothly in the future.

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