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LUCK's world was the world of the thoroughbred horse with all its spirit and grace. Our characters' lives were bound to these unique athletes. We tried to evoke their spirit and magic in our visual sequences. This connectedness to our horses was present no less in how they were valued and treated by us.

The LUCK production was committed to the strictest protocols and safety procedures anywhere in the equine world. There was unanimity from David Milch and Michael Mann to the physical production and the equine staff. Because of that, far fewer accidents occurred on LUCK in its 2,500 horse/runs than in any other racetrack we know of. Nevertheless, for us three accidents were three horse deaths too many.

In response to PETA's distortions and erroneous assertions about the care of our horses and on behalf of the horse trainers, wranglers, exercise riders, veterinarians and grooms who looked after those horses, we're publishing the safety protocols that were in operation on LUCK.

David Milch + Michael Mann

LUCK **Horse Racing Protocols and Safety Procedures**

HBO and the LUCK production are partnered with American Humane Association (AHA) to monitor the animal action during production and we have been fully compliant with their established Safety Guidelines. Working in the industry since 1940, AHA's Film & TV Unit has exclusive on-set jurisdiction to supervise the use of animals in movies, TV shows, commercials and short films.

Soundness Protocols

- All of the horses receive regular and frequent veterinarian care and treatment. The horses are examined each day by a licensed veterinarian. The veterinarian reports to AHA, the 399 wrangler/trainer and the racehorse trainer.
- All the horses are microchipped, and their legs are radiographed. The microchips facilitate quick identification of the horses in the barn and on the racetrack, and allow instant verification that the radiography has been examined and the horse is deemed fit and able to run.
- A California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) certified veterinarian and the AHA review medical records for each horse in addition to completing a physical examination of each before it can be taken out on the track to film. In addition, horses are observed for their gait and general appearance. In addition to filming days the CHRB certified vets sees and monitors the conditions of the horses every other week
- Horses are eliminated from racing or training if they have a fever, are sore, inflamed or exhibit any signs of lameness. On racing day horses are eliminated from participating based on the two vets' opinions, as well as opinions from AHA representatives, the

trainers and head wrangler. If there is doubt by anyone about a horse it is held out from running.

- The American Humane Association has strict guidelines regarding the administering of any drugs. Drugs including anesthetics, sedatives, and chemical laxatives may not be administered to animals for the purposes of filmmaking, and we observe these rules.
- Anti-inflammatory medication is used only therapeutically and in compliance with AHA guidelines. For example, a horse may be given an anti-inflammatory after a race day to avoid prolonged inflammation which may be damaging to the tissue. However, these are not used continually, and anti-inflammatory medications are never prescribed in a preventative way. No drug is ever administered to mask lameness or any defect in the animals, or to control their performance.
- No horses requiring Lasix are used. No nerve blocked horses are used.
- If a horse exhibits recurrent problems with inflammation it is eliminated from use for filming.
- AHA is always notified before we film horse racing scenes as well as other scenes with horses.
- We put in place a random drug testing program to ensure that the production is in full compliance with these very stringent medication and drug policies

Racing Guidelines

- An experienced Local 399 movie wrangler and an experienced racing trainer oversee the horses per the AHA guidelines.
- Racing scenes are filmed at Santa Anita Racetrack. The AHA and the Vets monitor the air temperature and the reaction of the horses and determine if the horses can run and whether they can do more than one run. Water for the horses is provided between runs.
- Only experienced, trained and conditioned animals are used by the production. Horses are experienced in racing and in entering and exiting starting gates.
- Training and conditioning of horses is maintained throughout the season.
- Only licensed qualified professionals are used to load the horses into the gates, and only experienced riders are allowed on the horses.
- We have a horse ambulance standing by at all times both when filming simulated horse races and when training. In addition paramedics and an ambulance for the jockeys are present in case one of them should get hurt.
- We adhere to AHA recommendations on how long a distance a horse can run and how many times. We follow these guidelines diligently. Horses run anywhere from a quarter mile to a third of a mile at any one time. They never run this distance during filming more than three times in a day, with at least a 15 to 20 minute break between runs. During

season two we maintained a quarter mile maximum distance and a two run max for each horse.

- After each run the horses are examined by AHA, the two veterinarians, the head wrangler, and the racing trainer, who collectively determine if it is safe for the horse to make another run or should be done for the day. These determinations are based on their observations, factoring the temperature, the frequency of runs, the weight the horse carried, and any other environmental conditions present.
- It generally takes thirty to forty horses to simulate a race.
- The American Humane Association is always involved and consulted about our racing schedule, and we do not film if they do not approve the schedule.
- All of our racing scenes take place at Santa Anita Park, one of the premiere racing facilities in the country. We maintain and use full track crews for the constant rehabilitation of the track while filming. The surface is harrowed and watered to track specifications between runs.
- Our horses are experienced with having a camera truck on the track while they are running, but production worked to condition the horses to the truck again after the hiatus.
- When appropriate, we add the boom arm onto the back of the camera truck so that they are introduced to all of the elements in play. We slowly work the horses with the truck and arm until they become comfortable with all the elements.
- A veterinarian examines our horses every day, and they are in the constant care of a team of grooms, exercise riders, trainers, hot walkers and a veterinarian. Before any racing scenes are filmed, the horses will have been training for at least seventy days.

“Stunt” or “Trick” Scenes

Any kind of stunt or trick type of sequence, such as the horse breakdown in the pilot or the bumping of horses in a race, is done with "movie" horses. These are not Thoroughbred racehorses but rather horses that have had long training working in movies and in doing tricks. They are supplied by our movie wrangler and trained by him. AHA oversees all of this and approves every sequence and is present for the filming of every sequence.

- As to the breakdown depicted in the pilot, this kind of work is accomplished through the combination of computer-generated visual effects and multiple horses being used to achieve a highly realistic and heart-wrenching scene.
 - First a visual effect and sound effect is used to give the illusion of the breaking of the foot; no horse actually breaks a foot doing this scene.
 - A close-up shot is filmed of a horse's foot as it is running and the break and blood seen on screen are entirely created with a computer-generated visual effect added in post-production. The sound is also added in post-production.
 - Next a few trick horses are used for the limping of the horse a few feet. They are trained and worked for the entire early part of the pilot learning to simulate a hobbled

- walk by our Local 399 movie wrangler. Each horse is only to do the trick a limited amount of times. The horse is only allowed to hobble for a few feet.
- Other horses are trained to lie down. Several horses are trained to do this, and no horse is down for more than 5- 7 minutes at a time. No tranquilizers or drugs of any kind are used to accomplish this trick.
 - The final shot of the horse closing its eyes is created through visual effects.