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**DISCUSSION**

DONIKE: Have you measured the protein binding?

HORNER: Yes, by two methods; most of the measurements were done by ultra-filtration using a small cell, and Moss has done some protein binding measurements using ultra-centrifugation; that is the one we used for the salicylate measurements, the others have been done with the cell.

LAMBERT: Albumin is the main protein to which drugs bind except for cortisol which has its own protein to bind to.

JOUANY: For 10 years we used broken bits or Canadian bits for collecting saliva. The bit is quite large and as the horse masticates on the bit you get quite large amounts of saliva, 10 to 15 millilitres. We did not need to feed the horse.

HORNER: With parotid saliva, and I must emphasise this is what I have been working with, chewing on anything inert had absolutely no effect at all.

BLAKE: With regard to blood collections, in the United States in the region of 350,000 bloods have been collected in post- and pre-race situations. These are primarily from pacing and trotting animals but many, particularly in Kentucky, have been pure bred animals and to my knowledge little difficulty in blood collection has been experienced. This may not be the problem you seem to anticipate.

HORNER: We would much prefer to work with blood than saliva. Have you had no reaction from owners and trainers about the possible harmful effect of taking blood samples from their horses before racing?

BLAKE: We had some minor complaints in the early days. Over the past 3 or 4 years, to my knowledge, there have been no complaints, but these horses are primarily trotters and pacers.

STEELE-BODGER: Blake has made a relevant point here, there is all the difference in the world between the thoroughbred and the trotter. They are so used to being handled in every direction and there are so many contraptions around a trotter, even a trotter stallion.

MAYNARD: For years when we were doing salivas we kept track of saliva volumes and with wet saliva tests we were getting 15 to 25 ml per horse. We also checked the difference between using plain distilled water and distilled water plus acetic acid, which was supposed to increase salivation, and found no difference whatsoever when using the acetic acid addition. During this period we did comparative tests between the urine and saliva positives and found only one saliva that gave a positive test compared with a large number of urines that gave positive tests. So saliva compared with urine for post-race testing was virtually valueless.

HORNER: If given the choice we would prefer urine for a pre-race test, if it is available.