

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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**Postmortem Examination Review Summary #2026B04**

Horse Information: Two-year-old Thoroughbred.

Incident Summary: The horse began showing signs of colic and was treated by the attending veterinarian. The horse remained painful despite treatment and was immediately shipped to the hospital. The horse was diagnosed with a diaphragmatic hernia with strangulated loops of intestine. The horse was given a poor prognosis and was humanely euthanized.

Necropsy Summary: A necropsy examination revealed a small (3 cm by 2 cm) diaphragmatic tear with fibrotic margins on the right side that mesentery a 294 cm section of small intestine had herniated through into the thoracic cavity. The herniated loop of intestine showed signs of vascular compromise, and cultured positive for a variety of bacteria.

Racing/Training History: The horse was unraced and had one recorded breeze.

Veterinary History Summary: The horse had colic surgery in June 2024 to repair a diaphragmatic hernia and had an intestinal resection.

Pre-race Examinations: N/A.

Conclusion: This was a sad unfortunate case of a horse suffering severe colic from a repeat cause. When surgical failure of a diaphragmatic hernia repair occurs, the prognosis is poor, especially when the patient is systemically ill.