

Transport Genie technology aims to improve racehorse health and welfare

Made-in-Canada smart sensors provide real-time monitoring of environmental conditions during transport

Guelph, Ont., Canada, Nov. 27, 2019 – Canadian-made technology developed by Transport Genie Ltd. is helping the horse industry understand the impacts of trailering on the health and welfare of equine athletes.

In a research collaboration involving Horner Stable of St. Marys, Ont., Transport Genie sensors have been installed on a horse trailer to monitor environmental conditions, including temperature and humidity, during transport. The work will take place throughout the winter as part of a national research collaboration supported by the Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) with funding from the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) AgriAssurance Program.

“The equine sector is an important economic driver in Canada, especially in rural communities, and we’re very pleased to continue working with CAHC to validate Transport Genie sensor technology and protect the health and welfare of horses,” said Joel Sotomayor, Transport Genie CEO. “We’re proud to offer a 100% made-in-Canada solution for monitoring the welfare of horses, livestock and poultry during transport, and we’re working with partners across Canada to field test our technology in real-world conditions.”

Like other farmed animals, horses are vulnerable to injury, stress and disease during transport. Previous research shows that while shorter trips of a couple hours or less don’t pose much of a problem, longer journeys expose horses to increased health risks. Many Canadian horses travel to southern U.S. states such as Florida to train and compete during the winter months.

“The health of the horse always comes first,” said Mark Horner, owner of Horner Stables and chair of Standardbred Canada. “I’m happy to be involved in research that will provide valuable, actionable data about conditions during transport that may help us improve industry practices to benefit the health and welfare of our horses.”

Transport Genie monitors conditions inside livestock trailers and uses blockchain technology to store and share that information with truck drivers and other users along the supply chain in a secure, tamperproof way. The sensors monitor variables such as temperature and humidity, as well as CO2 levels and a wide range of other factors that affect the animals’ well-being, including driver behaviour such as braking and acceleration or the duration of rest stops.

The equine study is one of several field trials supported by the CAP funding that will continue until the spring of 2020, said Jodi Cooper-Smith, CAHC project manager.

“For this study, we’re particularly interested in temperature and humidity variations inside the trailer — especially after a horse has been raced,” said Cooper-Smith. “Overall, the aim is to test Transport Genie’s technology in a variety of trailer designs, hauling multiple species, in long-haul and short-haul conditions, to provide data that will guide policymakers and shape future animal transport regulations. Transport Genie is an innovative tool that will ensure the well-being of animals in transit while assuring industry stakeholders and the general public that animals are being treated humanely at every stage of their journey.”

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