

Stewards' Report

Stewards Report: Matthew Kropp – Rosie Posie

Date: 26th May 2022

Panel: Rion Hitchener

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards today concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Desvenlafaxine was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the thoroughbred mare Rosie Posie at the Dalby Racecourse on 13 December 2016.

Desvenlafaxine is a human medication for which there are no registered Veterinary products available.

The inquiry in relation to this matter was conducted over 3 separate inquiry dates over a protracted period of time with delays to the inquiry process occurring as a result of the ongoing unavailability of witness' to the inquiry and other mitigating factors.

After considering the evidence tendered during the inquiry process, Stewards charged Mr Matthew Kropp pursuant to Australian Rule of Racing 178 (the relevant rule at the time of the offence) which reads,

AR.178. Subject to AR.178G, when any horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.

The specifics of the charges being that Mr Kropp, as the licensed trainer of ROSIE POSIE, did present that mare to race at the Dalby Racecourse on 13 December 2016 when a post-race urine sample collected from Rosie Posie was found to contain the prohibited substance Desvenlafaxine.

Mr Kropp entered a plea of not guilty to the charge and made submissions in defence of the charge.

After considering all the evidence and submissions, the Stewards were comfortably satisfied that sufficient evidence existed to substantiate the charge and Mr Kropp was formally found guilty of the charge.

In determining penalty in relation to the charge, the Stewards considered the following:

1. the nature, circumstances and seriousness of the offending conduct, in which the Stewards concluded that it was not known how the prohibited substance came to present in Rosie Posie's system, but the Stewards conceded that there was no evidence to suggest that the prohibited substance, for which there no known Veterinary products, had been intentionally administered to Rosie Posie;

2. Stewards concluded that the distinct possibility existed that environmental factors existed prior to the mare being presented to race, which could have led to the prohibited substance becoming present in the mare's system. Such environmental factors were beyond the control of the husbandry practices of Trainer M Kropp and therefore Mr Kropp was unable to mitigate any risk associated with the presentation of Rosie Posie with the prohibited substance in its system.
3. Mr Kropp's personal circumstances, including the number of employees and horses currently under his care and control and his extensive training history;
4. Mr Kropp's disciplinary history over an extended period throughout the entirety of his career;
5. Mr Kropp's cooperation throughout the inquiry, together with his frank and forthright evidence;
6. Mr Kropp's plea of not guilty;
7. Penalty precedents relevant to the Australian Rule of Racing and specifically the penalty precedents particular to the substance Desvenlafaxine.

Stewards, having considered the above factors, determined that given the unique specific circumstances of this case, that a conviction be recorded against Mr Kropp however no further penalty should be imposed against him.

Further, in accordance with Australian Rule of Racing 177 (the relevant rule at the time of the offence) the horse Rosie Posie was disqualified from its 1st placing in the subject race and the placings amended as follows:

1st RELAMPAGO

2nd WRITTENINTHERAIN

3rd OL' BROWN EYES

4th MAGAZINE MISS
