



## **TRNT Stewards Report – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**Panel:** D Hensler (Chairman), R Hamilton, R Shiers (Deputy)  
**Venue:** Darwin Turf Club Stewards' Room

Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings of the blood samples collected from UNDERHAND prior to the mare competing in and finishing third in race 4 at the Darwin Turf Club race meeting on 28 December 2024. The certificates of analysis for the pre race blood samples detected the presence of caffeine and its metabolites.

The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) issued the first certificate for these findings and the confirmation analysis was performed, and the second certificate issued by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL).

Evidence was considered from Mr Tom Logan, ARFL General Manager Mr J Keledjian and RWWA Industry Veterinarian Dr Judith Medd.

The Stewards established the following:

1. On 10 February 2025 TRNT Stewards notified Mr Logan of the irregularity the sample had returned to caffeine and a stable inspection was conducted and included a review of veterinary and treatment records for UNDERHAND.
2. There was no record of any treatment with products known to contain caffeine but Mr Logan advised that during the relevant period leading up to the race he had been orally administering the herbal feed supplement "MetaboLize" to the mare.
3. He provided the opened satchel of this product and it was noted that caffeine was not listed as an ingredient on the packaging. A sample of "MetaboLize" was collected by the Stewards and sent to the ARFL for analysis. An additional unopened satchel was also dispatched for testing.
4. At the end of February 2025, the ARFL reported that following analysis, both samples of "MetaboLize" were found to contain high levels of caffeine.
5. TRNT Stewards then became aware of a similar detection of caffeine from thoroughbreds in other Australian Racing jurisdictions. A notice was subsequently distributed to all trainers in the NT warning of the identified link between the detection of caffeine in the samples of thoroughbreds involving the use of "MetaboLize".

6. Poseidon Animal Health manufacture “MetaboLize” and the company CEO Mr Peter Lord provided correspondence and a statement that was tendered at the inquiry. He explained that the natural extracts that make up “MetaboLize” do not contain caffeine but through a quality control process it had been identified that traces of caffeine had been detected in certain batches of the product manufactured in November 2024. It was established that the contamination had occurred in the supply of one of the powdered raw materials and that measures had since been put in place to address the issue.
7. The manufacturer confirmed that the batch numbers of the satchels of “MetaboLize” in Mr Logan’s possession were produced in November 2024.

Subsequently, Mr Logan pleaded guilty to a charge under AR240(2)

The specifics of the charge being:

- He is a thoroughbred trainer licensed by TRNT
- At the relevant time he was the licensed trainer of the mare UNDERHAND
- On 28 December 2024 the mare was brought to the Darwin Turf Club race meeting held at Fannie Bay racecourse for the purpose of participating in race 4, the TRNT Off the Track Handicap over 1100m
- Upon analysis, prohibited substances were detected in the pre race blood samples collected from UNDERHAND, namely caffeine and the metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine
- These are identified as Prohibited List B substances within the Australian Rules of Racing.

Acting under the provisions of AR240(1), the Stewards disqualified UNDERHAND from the abovementioned race and the results will be amended accordingly with commensurate implications to stake money.

The Stewards decided to issue no penalty against Mr Logan for the breach of AR240(2) after considering the following circumstances:

- a. On the evidence the Stewards were satisfied that the source of the detected level of caffeine and the metabolites was consistent with UNDERHAND ingesting “MetaboLize” which contained caffeine as a consequence of contamination during the production process
- b. Prior to using ‘MetaboLize” Mr Logan had sought veterinary advice and had undertaken reasonable steps to ensure the supplement did not contain any prohibited substances
- c. The recent interstate precedent case involving a trainer licensed by Racing NSW
- d. Mr Logan’s guilty plea and co-operation throughout the investigation

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Mr Logan further pleaded guilty to a charge under AR252(1) with the specifics being that at the inspection conducted by the Stewards at his Darwin stables on the 10 February 2025 he did have on the premises an unregistered substance in addition to multiple bottles of Prescription Animal Remedy products that were not

labelled or dispensed in accordance with the NT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012.

A fine of \$500 was imposed.

He also pleaded guilty to a charge under AR104(1) for failing to record the oral administration of the herbal preparation "MetaboLize" to UNDERHAND for a period of time leading up to the mare competing at the Darwin Turf Club on 28 December, 2024.

After considering his previous breach of this rule in 2023, Stewards imposed a fine of \$1000.

Mr Logan was advised of his right of appeal to the TRNT appeal panel.

Australian Rules of Racing referred to in this report:

### ***Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse***

#### ***AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting***

*(1) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.*

*(2) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.*

#### ***AR 252 Possession of medication/substance/preparation in breach of legislation***

*(1) A person must not have in his or her possession or on his or her premises any medication, substance or preparation which has not been registered, labelled, prescribed, dispensed or obtained in accordance with applicable Commonwealth and State legislation.*

#### ***AR 104 Trainers must keep treatment records***

*(1) A trainer must record any medication or treatment administered to any horse in the trainer's care by midnight on the day in which the administration was given.*