

TRNT Stewards Report – Monday 28 July 2025

Panel: D Hensler (Chairman), R Hamilton, E Baird (Deputy)
Venue: Darwin Stewards' Room

Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings of the blood samples collected from LUCKY FORTUNA prior to competing in and finishing fourth in race 4 at the Darwin Turf Club race meeting conducted on 7 June 2025. The certificates of analysis for the pre race blood samples detected the presence of meloxicam.

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 (RASL).

Evidence was considered from trainer Heather Lehmann, ARFL General Manager J Keledjian and RWWA Manager of Veterinary Services Dr J Medd.

Subsequently, Mrs Lehmann pleaded guilty to a charge under AR240(2)

The specifics of the charge being:

- She is a thoroughbred trainer licensed by Racing SA and holds a TRNT visiting trainer permit
- At the relevant time she was the licensed trainer of LUCKY FORTUNA
- On 7 June 2025 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 Ladbrokes 2/3/4 Betting 0-64 Handicap over 1200m.
- Upon analysis, a prohibited substance was detected in the pre race blood samples collected from LUCKY FORTUNA, that substance being meloxicam.
- This is a prohibited list B substance under the Australian Rules of Racing.

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

In determining penalty, Stewards took into account the following:

- The seriousness of the charge
- Co-operation throughout the stable inspection and inquiry
- Guilty plea

- The therapeutic nature of the prohibited List B substance and detected level
- Long involvement in the thoroughbred racing industry
- Personal circumstances and previous very good record
- Previous penalty precedents relating to Prohibited List B substances
- Penalties are required to reflect a deterrent factor – both general and specific

A fine of \$3000 was imposed.

She also pleaded guilty to a breach of AR252(1) in that at a stable inspection on 16 July 2025 she did have on the premises a Prescription Animal Remedy product that was not labelled in accordance with the NT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012.

A \$300 fined was imposed.

Mrs Lehmann was informed of her right of appeal and that the fines must be paid within 3 months.

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.