



## TRNT Stewards Report – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

Panel: D Hensler, R Hamilton, A Napier

Venue: Darwin Stewards Room

The TRNT Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the analyst's findings that the blood samples taken from TIGER TRAP prior to competing and finishing 8th at the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019, contained the presence of the prohibited substance meloxicam.

The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) issued a first certificate for this finding and the confirmation analysis was performed and the second certificate was issued by Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL). Evidence was tendered by trainer Mr Dick Leech, his stable veterinarian Dr Ken Oliver, RWWA Racing Industry veterinarian Dr J Medd and ARFL Science Manager Dr A Cawley.

Subsequently Mr Leech pleaded guilty to a charge under Australian Rule of Racing 240(2) with the specifics being that as the trainer of TIGER TRAP he did bring that gelding to the Alice Springs Turf Club race meeting held at Pioneer Park racecourse on 4 May 2019 for the purpose of participating in race 1, the Peter Kittle Company Handicap run over 1200m, with the prohibited substance meloxicam being detected in the pre race blood sample taken from the gelding. Meloxicam is included under Schedule 1, List B of prohibited substances under the Rules of Racing.

In consideration of a penalty Stewards took into account the following factors:

- The seriousness of the charge
- The therapeutic nature of the prohibited substance and the low level detected
- The expert veterinary opinion that supported Mr Leech with his explanation that the positive finding was in all likelihood the result of perivascular leakage around the site of the IV administration
- The administration of the substance was within the withholding period recommended by his stable veterinarian and consistent with normal stable practice as supported by his detailed treatment records
- His co – operation and admissions at an initial stable inspection and during the inquiry and his accurate treatment records

- His early guilty plea
- His long involvement in the industry and personal circumstances
- Previous positive swab breach in 2008

Mr Leech was fined the sum of \$4000

Acting under the provisions of Australian Rule of Racing 240(1), the Stewards disqualified TIGER TRAP from eighth placing in race 1 on 4th May, 2019.

Mr Leech was advised of his rights of appeal and that the fine 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.*