

# Media Release

## Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

---

12 December 2017

### **HRV RAD Board Hearing – Matthew Craven**

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board today considered a charge issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 190(1) against licensed trainer-driver Matthew Craven.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

*A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.*

The charge under AHRR 190(1) issued by HRV Stewards against Mr Craven related to a blood sample taken from the horse 'Ruthie Yamaguchi' at the Terang trial meeting on 18 June 2017. The definition of a 'race' within the AHRR includes an official trial.

Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported that the analysis of the blood sample revealed it to contain the prohibited substances triamcinolone acetonide and meloxicam. The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) in NSW confirmed these findings in the reserve portion of the relevant blood sample.

Mr Craven pleaded guilty to the charge before submissions on penalty were heard from the HRV Stewards and barrister Damien Sheales, representing Mr Craven.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board highlighted Mr Craven's cooperation throughout the investigation and guilty plea at the earliest opportunity, along with his good record in the industry. The HRV RAD Board also emphasised the purpose of the rules in relation to prohibited substances and the dangers associated with horses competing with these substances in their system.

Mr Craven was subsequently fined \$4000, of which \$2000 was suspended for a period of 12 months.

'Ruthie Yamaguchi' was scratched at the track prior to competing in the trial.

*HRV RAD Board Panel: Alanna Duffy (Chair), Peter Kilduff, Rod Osborne*