



MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE - PLUTONIUM NZ

Stewards have concluded their inquiries into the circumstances a post-race sample taken from PLUTONIUM NZ after winning at Globe Derby Park on 31 October 2020 was found to contain O-desmethylvenlafaxine, a prohibited substance.

On 16 February 2021 Stewards issued a charge against Trainer David Drury under HRR 190(1) which states: "A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances."

Mr Drury was charged "As the trainer of registered horse PLUTONIUM NZ on 31 October 2020, he presented that horse to race in Race 3 the 'TAB Live Sky Racing Vision Pace' at Globe Derby Park when not free of a prohibited substance."

The particulars of the charge being;

1. He a trainer licensed by HRSA for the period 1 September 2019 and concluding 31 December 2020;
2. At the relevant time he was the trainer of the registered horse PLUTONIUM NZ;
3. Following Race 3, the 'TAB Live Sky Racing Vision Pace', at Globe Derby Park on 31 October 2020 a urine sample was collected from 'PLUTONIUM NZ' with subsequent analysis of that sample revealing the presence of O-desmethylvenlafaxine;
4. O-desmethylvenlafaxine is a substance prohibited under the Rules.

On Monday 1 March 2021 Mr Drury pleaded guilty to the charge of presentation.

After considering substantial evidence, including from HRSA Veterinary Surgeon Dr R Haensel, and considering the circumstances of the offence and the Trainers record, Stewards being satisfied the presence of O-desmethylvenlafaxine had occurred through contamination, imposed a fine of \$2000, fully suspended for a period of twelve months on the proviso Mr Drury did not breach the rules relating to prohibited substances during that period.

In determining the penalty Stewards acknowledged the following matters;

- O-desmethylvenlafaxine is a metabolite of a human medication, Venlafaxine.

- Venlafaxine is prescribed for Major Depressive Disorder, Generalised Anxiety Disorder and related conditions in people.
- Venlafaxine and its active metabolite o-desmethylvenlafaxine are not registered veterinary medications for equine use.
- Venlafaxine and o-desmethylvenlafaxine, when excreted in urine, (in relatively high concentrations related to the dose) into the environment, are relatively stable in the environment.
- The prescription of venlafaxine for human medication is widespread and common, so along with its longevity as a stable chemical in the environment, it is considered sufficiently common to be an almost ubiquitous contaminant of wastewater and waterways associated with humans.
- Samples collected from Mr Drury's stable property and an Adelaide stable property at which the horse had rested prior to racing had contained both Venlafaxine and O-desmethylvenlafaxine.
- Four other post-race samples taken from PLUTONIUM NZ during the preparation in both South Australia and Victoria had been cleared.
- No warnings regarding contamination through the excretion of human preparations had been distributed in the State.
- Mr Drury's guilty plea and general cooperation with the inquiry.

Mr Drury was informed of his right to appeal this decision.

Acting under the provisions of Rule 195, the Stewards ordered PLUTONIC NZ be disqualified from Race 3 the 'TAB Live Sky Racing Vision Pace' at Globe Derby Park on 31 October 2020.

The amended result is:

First -	8 JACCKA TED NZ	M Billinger
Second -	5 WAITPINGA LAD	R Hryhorec
Third -	10 JUST CAPPY	D Hill
Fourth -	1 HAVEACHEW	W Hill

Graham Loch
Acting Chief Steward HRSA
 5 March 2021