

Media Release

Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board

18 July 2018

HRV RAD Board Hearing – Heather Morrissey

On 12 July 2018, the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Racing Appeals and Disciplinary (RAD) Board considered charges issued by HRV Stewards under Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR) 190(1) and 190B(1) against licensed trainer Heather Morrissey.

AHRR 190(1) reads as follows:

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

The charge under AHRR 190(1) related to a post-race urine sample taken from the horse 'Tryncatchme' after it won Race 2, the 'Yabby Dam Farms Trotters Handicap', at St Arnaud on 31 December 2017. Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL) reported that analysis of the urine sample revealed it to contain the prohibited substance dexamethasone. The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (ARFL) in Sydney confirmed these findings in the reserve portion of the relevant urine sample.

Mrs Morrissey was also charged with a breach of AHRR 190B(1) being that she failed to keep and maintain a log book in accordance with the rules.

Mrs Morrissey pleaded guilty to both charges before submissions on penalty were heard from HRV Stewards and Mrs Morrissey.

In deciding an appropriate penalty, the HRV RAD Board considered Mrs Morrissey's guilty plea and cooperation throughout the investigation; Mrs Morrissey's excellent record in regard to prohibited substance matters over 18 years in the industry; both general and specific deterrence; the nature of the substance; the significance of prohibited substance matters; and the specific circumstances of the matter in that Mrs Morrissey received incorrect information from her veterinarian.

It was the decision of the HRV RAD Board that Mrs Morrissey be fined the sum of \$6000, of which \$4000 was suspended for a period of 12 months.

In relation to the log book charge, Mrs Morrissey was fined the sum of \$250.

The HRV RAD Board also ordered that, under AHRR 195, 'Tryncatchme' be disqualified from Race 2 at St Arnaud on 31 December 2017 and that the placings be amended accordingly.

HRV RAD Board Panel: Alanna Duffy (Chair), Hugh Millar, Robert Abrahams.

The Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board (RADB) is established under section 50B of the Racing Act (1958). The RADB is an independent Board established to hear and determine appeals in relation to decisions made under the rules to impose penalties on persons and to hear and determine charges made against persons for serious offences.