3 February 2025

**DECISION**

**HARNESS RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**ALANNAH LOGIE**

**Date of hearing:** 22 January 2025

**Date of decision:** 22 January 2025

**Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Mr Greg Childs.

**Appearances:** Mr Andrew Cusumano appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Anthony Bull appeared on behalf of Mr Alannah Logie.

**Charge:** Australian Harness Racing Rule (“AHRR”) 190(1) states:

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

**Particulars:** 1. At all relevant times, you were a licensed trainer and driver with HRV and a person bound by the Australian Harness Racing Rules;

 2. At all relevant times, you were the trainer of the horse *Daylight At Dawn*;

 3. On 12 October 2023, *Daylight At Dawn* was presented for, and competed in, Race 5 at the Kilmore harness racing meeting, the “Jet Roofing Pace” (**the Race**).

 4. Following the Race, a urine sample was collected from *Daylight At Dawn* with subsequent analysis of that sample revealing a cobalt concentration in excess of the allowable threshold;

 5. As the trainer of *Daylight at Dawn* on 12 October 2023, you presented that horse for the Race not free of cobalt, a prohibited substance when present at a concentration in excess of 100 micrograms per litre in urine.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Ms Alannah Logie has been a licensed trainer since 2021 and licensed driver since 2022. She is a person bound by the Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR). She was the trainer and driver of the horse Daylight at Dawn. On 12 October 2023, Daylight at Dawn was presented for and competed in Race 5 at the Kilmore Harness Racing Meeting. A post-race sample of urine was taken from Daylight at Dawn, being sample number V806582. The sample revealed a cobalt concentration level in excess of the allowable threshold. Ms Logie was charged with a presentation offence under the Australian Harness Racing Rule 190(1) on account of presenting Daylight at Dawn for an event with a concentration in excess of the allowable threshold, being 100 micrograms per litre in urine.

Ms Logie pleaded guilty to the offence at the earliest opportunity.

Ms Logie is an A grade trainer and B grade driver.

The post-race sample V806582 was forwarded by HRV Integrity and Compliance to Racing Analytical Services (RASL) for analysis. RASL confirmed that the sample arrived in good condition. The seals were intact and the sample contained cobalt at a concentration level greater than 200 micrograms. The corresponding reserve sample was forwarded to Racing Chemistry Laboratory (RCL) in Perth for a referee analysis. A certificate of analysis from RCL confirmed that the sample arrived in good condition, the seals were intact and that cobalt at a concentration greater than 200 micrograms was present. We accept that this is a very high reading.

A stable inspection was conducted at the registered stables of Ms Logie. An interview was conducted with her and an inspection undertaken. Ms Logie said that her horses were managed by herself and Mr Cory Bell, her partner. Mr Bell is a licensed B grade trainer and an A grade driver and was the person who fed and worked Daylight at Dawn under her direction. Ms Logie said that Daylight at Dawn had been treated with Meloxicam, Ranvet Electro Paste, Kohnke’s Own Flexi Joint and 4 Cyte gel in the lead up to the relevant race on 12 October 2023. Ms Logie said that the day prior to the race Daylight at Dawn was given Ranvet Electro Paste, which was believed to be a combination of Vitamins B & C. She confirmed that every day, including the day of the race, the horse was given Salkavite and Flexi joint. Daylight at Dawn may have potentially been let out on the grass where she feeds her retired horse with a mixture including Palomino Gold.

On 16 November Mr Bell was interviewed. He advised that he does everything in accordance with Ms Logie’s instructions.

We accept that the likely explanation is access to the retired horse’s feed, with its mixture including Palermino gold.

Ms Logie relied upon 6 references. All referees spoke of her honesty, excellent work ethic and commitment to the industry, including her involvement in the rehoming of track horses, both harness and gallop horses. A number of the referees said that they believed Ms Logie took the Rules of Harness Racing very seriously.

As a result of this incident Ms Logie has undertaken a Certificate 4 course in Race Horse Training, which has helped her to better understand different feeds and prevention of contamination. We accept that Ms Logie has taken this incident very seriously, suffering personal stress and anxiety.

In imposing a penalty, we take into account Ms Logie’s guilty plea, her cooperation with the Stewards, her good record and the importance of general and specific deterrence. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. We acknowledge the submissions of the Stewards in relation to penalty. In addition, we take into account penalties in recent like cases.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of 12 months suspension, with 9 months suspended for 24 months.

Daylight at Dawn is disqualified from Race 5 at the Kilmore Harness Racing Meeting on 12 October 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal