



*INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYSTS FINDING OF MELOXICAM AND COBALT IN URINE AND BLOOD SAMPLES
TAKEN FROM KOOP CREEK PRIOR TO THE GELDING BEING PLACED 2ND IN RACE 5 SILVER CITY
CUP CONDUCTED AT BROKEN HILL 28 OCTOBER 2017.*

**RNSW Offices
Druitt Street
Sydney**

Friday 12 January 2018

**Stewards: M F Van Gestel (Chairman)
P C Dingwall
T J Davidson**

The Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the Analysts' findings of meloxicam and cobalt at a concentration above the level excepted in AR178C(1)(l) in pre-race blood and urine samples taken from Koop Creek prior to that gelding finishing 2nd in Race 5 Silver City Cup conducted at Broken Hill on 28 October 2017.

Evidence was today taken from the trainer of Koop Creek, Mrs Colette Cooper, licensed RVL Stablehand Ms Raharna McDonald, Racing NSW Official Veterinarian Dr Tania Selig and ARFL Science Manager Dr Adam Cawley.

Cobalt

The following levels of cobalt in pre-race urine sample N205443 were reported.

National Measurement Institute (NMI)	28/11/2017	118 µg/L	+/- 16 µg/L *
Racing Analytical Services Limited (RASL)	21/12/2017	101 µg/L	+/- 10 µg/L *

* Measurement of uncertainty

The following level of cobalt in pre-race blood sample B136526 was reported.

National Measurement Institute (NMI)	9/11/2017	15 µg/L
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Having regard to the provisions of AR178D(6) and taking into account the measurement of uncertainty and absent of any further evidence, the Stewards could not be satisfied to the requisite standard, the Briginshaw standard, that when Koop Creek was presented to race at Broken Hill on 28 October 2017 that it had a level of cobalt above that excepted by AR178C(1)(l).

Meloxicam

The Stewards issued the following charges and Penalties

Licensed Trainer Mrs Colette Cooper

1. **AR178** – Pleaded guilty to presenting Koop Creek to race at Broken Hill on 28 October 2017 when the prohibited substance meloxicam was detected in a pre-race blood sample.

Penalty: 9 months disqualification

2. **AR178F** – Pleaded guilty to failing to enter treatments into her treatment records on or around 25 and 26 October 2017 for the racehorses Koop Creek and Crystal Reef.

Penalty: \$500

Stewards ruled Mrs Cooper be disqualified for a period of 9 months to expire on 12 October 2018 on which day she may reapply for her trainer's licence. In assessing penalty Stewards took into account Mrs Cooper's previous history of two prior prohibited substance offences, her 16 years of being licensed, guilty pleas and the seriousness of the offences. Acting under the provisions of AR196(6)(a) the commencement of the penalty was deferred for seven days, however, Mrs Cooper may not start a horse in any race in that period.

Licensed Stablehand Ms Raharna McDonald

1. **AR175(h)(ii)** – Pleaded guilty to administering the prohibited substance meloxicam to the racehorse Koop Creek which was detected in a blood sample taken from Koop Creek prior to racing at Broken Hill on 28 October 2017.

Penalty: 6 Months disqualification

2. **AR175(a)** – Pleaded guilty to a charge of improper conducted in that she did improperly conduct herself on or around 25 and 26 October 2017 by administering the following substances to Koop Creek and Crystal Reef without the knowledge or authority of licensed trainer Mrs Colette Cooper.

DMSO
Metacam
Vam
Vitamin C
Hipiron
Cophos B

Penalty: 12 months disqualification

Stewards ruled that in accordance with AR196(3), both penalties are to be served cumulatively and therefore Ms McDonald is disqualified for a period of 18 months to expire on 12 July 2019 on which day she may reapply for her stablehand licence. In assessing penalty Stewards took into account Ms McDonald's clean record, in excess of 20 years in the racing industry, guilty pleas and the serious nature of the offences.

Under the powers of AR177, Koop Creek was disqualified from its 2nd placing in Race 5, the Silver City Cup conducted at Broken Hill racecourse on the 28 October 2017 and the placing's were amended as follows:

1st Alpha Auriga
2nd Xian's Pride
3rd Nipper's Destiny

All parties have been advised of their rights of appeal.

Relevant Rules

AR 175. *The Principal Racing Authority (or the Stewards exercising powers delegated to them) may penalise;*

- (a) *Any person, who, in their opinion, has been guilty of any dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent, improper or dishonourable action or practice in connection with racing.*

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AR 175. *The Principal Racing Authority (or the Stewards exercising powers delegated to them) may penalise;*

(h) Any person who administers, or causes to be administered, to a horse any prohibited substance -

(ii) which is detected in any sample taken from such horse prior to or following the running of any race.

AR 177. *Subject to AR 177C, any horse that has been brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.*

AR178 - *Subject to AR 178G, when any horse that has been brought to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race and a prohibited substance is detected in any sample taken from it prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of such horse at any relevant time may be penalised.*

AR 178C. *(1) The following prohibited substances when present at or below the concentrations respectively set out are excepted from the provisions of AR 178B and AR 178H:-*

(l) Cobalt at a mass concentration of 100 micrograms per litre in urine or 25 micrograms per litre in plasma.

AR 178F.

- (1) A trainer must record treatment and medication administered to each horse in his or her care by midnight on the day on which the administration was given, and each record must include the following information:*
- (a) the name of the horse;*
 - (b) the date and time of administration of the treatment or medication;*
 - (c) the name of the treatment or medication administered (brand name or active constituent);*
 - (d) the route of administration including by injection, stomach tube, paste, topical application or inhalation;*
 - (e) the amount of medication given (if applicable);*
 - (f) the duration of a treatment (if applicable);*
 - (g) the name and signature of person or persons administering and/or authorizing the administration of the treatment or medication.*
- (5) A trainer who fails to comply with any provision of AR.178F commits a breach of this Rule and may be penalised.*

M F Van Gestel
Chairman of Stewards