



INQUIRY INTO THE WELFARE OF THE THOROUGHBRED HORSES QUITE FRANKLY, STRATICAL AND 2018 KINGSPIEL X LANA FILLY WHILST UNDER THE CARE AND CHARGE OF LICENSED STABLEHAND MS ALYSSA ELSON AND MR CHRISTOPHER HINTON.

**Racing NSW Offices
Druitt Street Sydney**

Tuesday 7 December 2021

**Stewards: M F Van Gestel (Chairman)
S G Railton
J J Earl**

Racing NSW Stewards today conducted an inquiry into the welfare of the thoroughbred horses Quite Frankly, Stratical and 2018 Kingspiel x Lana Filly whilst under the care and charge of licensed stablehand Ms Alyssa Elson and her partner Mr Christopher Hinton.

Evidence today was taken from Ms Elson, Mr Hinton, Racing NSW GM-Veterinary Services Dr T Koenig and Racing NSW Equine Welfare Veterinarian Dr Carly Garling. A brief of evidence provided by the Racing NSW Investigations and Surveillance unit was also considered.

Charges

Ms Elson was charged with the following offences.

1. Charge 1 – Quite Frankly

AR231(1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv).

As the person jointly in charge of Quite Frankly up to 30 June 2021, Ms Elson failed to

- a. exercise reasonable care, control or supervision of Quite Frankly so as to prevent an act of cruelty to the horse;
- b. take such reasonable steps as were necessary to alleviate any pain being suffered by Quite Frankly;
- c. provide veterinary treatment to Quite Frankly where such treatment was necessary for the horse; and
- d. provide proper and sufficient nutrition for Quite Frankly.

Plea: Not Guilty

Finding: Guilty

2. Charge 2 – 2018 Kingspiel x Lana (The Filly)

AR231(1)(b)(iii) and (iv).

As the person in charge of **The Filly** up to 30 June 2021, Ms Elson failed to

- a. provide veterinary treatment to **The Filly** where such treatment was necessary for **The Filly**; and
- b. provide proper and sufficient nutrition for **The Filly**.

Plea: Not Guilty

Finding: Guilty

3. Charge 3 - Stratical

AR231(1)(b)(iv).

As the person in charge of Stratical, Ms Elson failed to provide Stratical with proper and sufficient nutrition at all relevant times in the lead up to 12 July 2021.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty

Stewards considered the following matters in respect to penalty.

1. Guilty plea for charge 3.
2. Good record over 12 years of being licensed as a stablehand.
3. Personal and financial circumstances.
4. Seriousness of the offence involving the euthanasia of a horse.
5. Social licence that the thoroughbred racing industry operates under.
6. Reasons for issuing penalties.
7. Principles applied when issuing penalties.

The Stewards determined the appropriate penalty for all three charges to be a period of disqualification of 12 months to commence on 7 December 2021 and to expire on 7 December 2022.

Relevant Rules

AR 231 Care and welfare of horses

(1) A person must not:

(b) if the person is in charge of a horse – fail at any time:

- (i) to exercise reasonable care, control or supervision of the horse so as to prevent an act of cruelty to the horse;
- (ii) to take such reasonable steps as are necessary to alleviate any pain inflicted upon or being suffered by the horse;
- (iii) to provide veterinary treatment to the horse where such treatment is necessary for the horse; and/or
- (iv) to provide proper and sufficient nutrition for the horse.

AR2 - cruelty includes any act or omission as a consequence of which a horse is mistreated.

M F Van Gestel
General Manager-Integrity
Chairman of Stewards