



HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF CHARGES ISSUED AGAINST REGISTERED OWNER AND BREEDER  
KATHERINE MCCALLUM

**Racing NSW Offices  
Druitt Street, Sydney  
Via Microsoft Teams**

**20 November 2024**

**Stewards: M W Cleaver (Chair)  
D R Hadley  
M A Holloway**

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On 28 August 2024, Racing NSW Stewards and an approved Veterinarian attended the premises of registered owner and breeder Ms Katherine McCallum in relation to a welfare complaint regarding multiple thoroughbred horses. Upon arrival at the location, Stewards observed the stabling and paddocks at the property to be in a state that did not comply with the '*Minimum Standards & Guidelines of Equine Welfare*.' Additionally, Stewards inspected seventy-four [74] thoroughbreds located at the premises, all of which were in the care or control of Ms McCallum. A large number of horses at the property had observably poor body condition.

Racing NSW commenced investigations into the matter including obtaining Veterinarian reports, photographing and documenting the conditions of the horses, and interviewing Ms McCallum. She was also given direction with respect to the ongoing welfare and care of the horses and conducted subsequent inspections of the property to ensure compliance. As a result of their observations and investigation, Stewards also placed Ms McCallum on the Racing NSW Excluded List on an interim basis.

Stewards held an inquiry into the matter which ran over two days. As a result of the inquiry, on 12 November 2024, Stewards issued two charges;

- Charge 1: LR114(2)(c)
- Charge 2: AR231(1)(b)(iv)

On 20 November 2024, after taking evidence in the hearing, Stewards amended charge 2 to reflect a total number of thirty-three thoroughbreds as being subject to that charge.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Stewards determined the matters as follows.

## **Charges issued against Ms Katherine McCallum**

### **Charge 1: LR114(2)(c)**

The details of the charge being that, as at 28 August 2024, the stabling and paddocks in which thoroughbred horses in her care were located contained debris that may injure horses, including uncapped star pickets. Additionally, portions of the fencing consisted of untightened wire, barbed wire in the yards, and uncapped star pickets. The condition of the stabling and paddocks did not comply with the standard approved by Racing NSW, nor do they meet the requirements of being adequately maintained or in a clean condition.

**Plea: Not Guilty**

**Finding: Guilty**

### **Charge 2: AR231(1)(b)(iv)**

The details of the charge being that, at the relevant times, she was the registered owner and/or person in charge of, or in possession, control or custody of 33 thoroughbred horses at her property. She failed to provide proper and sufficient nutrition to the horses in question. The result of which was that, either entirely or in part, the body condition of the horses deteriorated to a level of between 0-1.

**Plea: Not Guilty**

**Finding: Guilty**

## **Penalty**

The following penalty considerations were taken into account –

- Pleas of not guilty were entered,
- The objective seriousness of the conduct,
- Precedent penalties,
- Ms McCallum's personal and professional circumstances,
- Her lack of any prior related breaches of the rules of racing,
- The steps she has undertaken to rehome and rehabilitate the horses subject of the charges,
- Principle of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct,
- Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image, interests and welfare of the thoroughbred racing industry.

**Charge 1: LR 114(2)(c) – 6 months disqualification**

**Charge 2: AR231(1)(b)(iv) – 3 years disqualification reduced to 2.5 years having regard to the subjective and other mitigating factors.**

The Stewards have determined that, given the nature of the breaches, charges 1 and 2 will be served wholly concurrently. Accordingly, the period of disqualification was determined to be from **20 November 2024 until 21 May 2027**.

Ms McCallum was advised of her rights regarding appeal.

**M W Cleaver**  
**Operations Manager - Integrity**