

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
Fax (916) 263-6042

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

Los Alamitos Race Course
4961 E. Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Contact: Mike Marten
(714) 820-2748
Cell: (714) 240-1870
Fax (714) 821-6232

CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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WEEKLY UPDATE

SACRAMENTO, CA – This is the California Horse Racing Board’s weekly update of complaints, accusations, stewards rulings, and Board decisions involving Class 1, 2, and 3 medication violations and other significant matters.

In accordance with a stipulated agreement between the California Horse Racing Board and the licensees, the stewards at Santa Anita Park fined three veterinarians associated with the Equine Medical and Surgical Group a total of \$4,500 for violation of CHRB Rules 1843, 1844, and 1887, and they issued a \$500 fine to trainer Mike Mitchell for violation of CHRB Rules 1844 (e) and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory at the University of California, Davis, reported that a sample taken from a horse in Mitchell’s care, Scat Thief, exceeded the regulatory threshold for procaine. The violation was confirmed by Truesdail Laboratories. Procaine is a local anesthetic and is found in procaine penicillin G, a commonly administered antibiotic. For this reason, procaine is a Class 3 violation rather than a Class 2 violation, as are most other anesthetics. Scat Thief finished third in the seventh race at Del Mar on August 3, 2008. Drs. Joseph Dowd, Edwin Simpson, and Jennifer Finley agreed evidence indicated one of them had inadvertently administered procaine penicillin G to Scat Thief resulting in the procaine violation. The CHRB investigation showed another horse, a chestnut gelding like Scat Thief and located in an adjacent stall, was under treatment with procaine penicillin G for a respiratory infection at the time of the violation. The veterinarians jointly accepted responsibility for the violation and entered into the stipulated agreement for the \$4,500 fine.

The CHRB filed two complaints against trainer Lissette F. Hernandez for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (d), 1844 (e) (4) (9) and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory determined the urine sample collected from a horse in her care, Pappyscoronalibro, contained both albuterol and clenbuterol in excess of authorized decision levels. Albuterol and clenbuterol are beta-2 agonist bronchodilators commonly used in horses. Each is a Class 3 violation. Pappyscoronalibro finished first in the fourth race at the Los Alamitos on February 19, 2009. The stewards at Los Alamitos have scheduled an April 4 hearing on both complaints.

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