



*INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES RESULTING IN THE EUTHANSIA OF THE THOROUGHBRED
GELDING BIG SAMI ON THURSDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2021.*

HNWRA Offices

Thursday, 6th January 2022

**Stewards: S J Woolaston (Chairman)
S K Morrish (Trainee)**

Racing NSW Stewards today concluded an inquiry into the circumstances resulting in the euthanasia of the thoroughbred gelding Big Sami whilst under the care of licensed trainer Mr Jeremy Everson.

Evidence today was taken from Mr Everson, Racing NSW Official Veterinarian Dr Rose Bensley and a written veterinary report from Dr Tamara McElroy was also considered.

Charges

Mr Everson was charged with the following offences;

Charge

AR231(1)(b), (ii) and (iii) – Care and Welfare of Horses

The details of the charge being

1. He was the person in charge of the thoroughbred gelding Big Sami at all relevant times up to and including Thursday, 16th December 2021.
2. After attending Big Sami at the Westdale agistment property approximately 3 weeks prior to 16th December 2021 and when it was visibly noticeable that the gelding had a clear nasal discharge, he did fail to provide veterinary treatment when such treatment was necessary.
3. On Sunday, 12th December 2021 after being contacted by the agistment property owner, voicing concerns in relation to the condition of the gelding, he failed to make appropriate arrangements for veterinary treatment when such treatment was necessary.
4. On Thursday, 16th December 2021 when attended to by Veterinarian Dr Tamara McElroy at the Tamworth Racecourse, Big Sami
 - i. presented with a poor body condition score condition of 1.5-2,
 - ii. was displaying an audible inspiratory and expiratory noise consistent with an upper airway obstruction,
 - iii. was displaying signs of agitation, bilateral nasal discharge and dysphagia.

resulting in the gelding being euthanised due to the horse's condition and immediate welfare considerations, to prevent the gelding from pain and suffering.

5. Mr Everson was in breach AR231(1)(b) as he failed
 - ii. to take such reasonable steps as are necessary to alleviate any suffering by Big Sami;
 - iii. to provide veterinary treatment to Big Sami where such treatment was necessary for the gelding;

Plea: Guilty

Finding: Guilty

Penalty

In assessing penalty Stewards considered the following matters.

1. Guilty plea.
2. Licensing history and disciplinary record.
3. Seriousness of the breach and the negative impact such actions have on the image of the industry.

Stewards determined the appropriate penalty be a period of 12-month disqualification. Having regard to Mr Everson's guilty plea and forthright evidence, a period of 9-month disqualification was issued to commence immediately and to expire on 7th October 2022 on which day he may reapply for a licence. Mr Everson was advised the period of disqualification would be deferred under subrule 7 to allow him to care for and make arrangements for horses under his care, however he must not start a horse in a race or official trial during this period.

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.

S J Woolaston
Chief Steward HNWRA