



INQUIRY INTO THE ANALYSTS FINDING OF MELOXICAM IN A URINE SAMPLE TAKEN FROM AITATKI AFTER IT BEING PLACED FIRST IN THE CLASS 1 HANDICAP 1200M CONDUCTED AT MURWILLUMBAH RACECOURSE ON FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2024.

Murwillumbah Racecourse

27 November 2025

**Stewards: T L Vanderstok (Chair)
M A Holloway**

The Stewards today conducted an inquiry into two Analysts' findings of Meloxicam in a post-race urine sample taken from *Aitutaki* after that mare placed 1st in Race 8 Class 1 Handicap 1200m at Murwillumbah racecourse on Friday 23 August 2024.

Evidence was taken from trainer Mr P Quinlan and the managing part owner of *Aitutaki* Mr T Quinlan, ARFL General Manager Mr J. Kelejian and RNSW Official Veterinarian and Welfare officer Dr R Bensley.

Licensed trainer Mr P Quinlan was issued a charge under AR240(2) –

Charge – AR240(2) Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

The details of the charge being that he presented *Aitutaki* to participate in Race 8 Class 1 Handicap 1200m at Murwillumbah racecourse on Friday 23 August 2024 and a post-race urine sample that was taken from *Aitutaki* after winning the event was found to contain the prohibited substance Meloxicam.

Plea: Guilty

Finding: Guilty

Stewards considered the following matters in respect to penalty –

1. Guilty Plea
2. Disciplinary history
3. Personal and professional circumstances.
4. The nature and circumstances of the offence.
5. Precedent penalties.
6. Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.
7. Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the thoroughbred racing industry.

Penalty

Stewards believe the appropriate penalty be a fine of \$7000. Taking into account his guilty plea and mitigating factors the penalty was varied to a \$5000 fine.

Mr Quinlan was advised of his rights of appeal.

RACING NSW – STEWARDS REPORT

Acting under the requirements of AR240(1), *Aitutaki* was disqualified from its first placing in Race 8 Class 1 Handicap 1200m conducted at Murwillumbah racecourse on the 23 August 2024 and the placing's were amended as follows:

1st *Chockablock*
2nd *Guru Class*
3rd *Mean Approach*
4th *Everlasting Stars*
5th *Crimson Sky*

Relevant Rules

Relevant Rules Division 2 – Prohibited substance in a sample taken from a horse

AR 240 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at race meeting

(1) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the horse must be disqualified from any race in which it started on that day.

(2) Subject to subrule (3), if a horse is brought to a racecourse for the purpose of participating in a race and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following its running in any race, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

T L Vanderstok
Deputy Chief Steward NRRRA