COMPLAINT

1055 West Seventh Street, Suite 1950

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017

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I. THE PARTIES

- 1. Baltas, at all times mentioned in this pleading, has been and now is licensed as a horse trainer, under the license issued by the CHRB, License No. 232550-5/2022, and has been engaged in the profession of horse training in the State of California.
- 2. At all times mentioned in this pleading, the CHRB has been and is now the agency charged with administering California Business and Professions Code ("BPC") § 19400 et seq. and the California Horse Racing rules ("CHRB Rules").
- 3. Defendant Dr. Gregory Ferrero is now and at all times relevant hereto was the Chairman of the CHRB and at all times mentioned herein was acting in his official capacity in doing the things hereinafter alleged.
- Defendant Oscar Gonzales is now and at all relevant times hereto was the Vice 4. Chairman of the CHRB and all times mentioned herein was acting in his official capacity in doing the thing hereafter alleged.
- Defendant Scott Chaney ("Chaney") is now and at all times relevant hereto was the 5. Executive Director of the CHRB and at all times mentioned herein was acting in his official capacity in doing the things hereinafter alleged.
- Defendant Dennis V. Alfieri is now and at all times relevant hereto was a member of 6. the CHRB and at all times mentioned herein was acting in his official capacity in doing the things hereinafter alleged.
- Defendant Damascus Castellanos is now and at all times relevant hereto was a 7. member of the CHRB and at all times mentioned herein was acting in his official capacity in doing the things hereinafter alleged.
- 8. Defendant Brenda Washington Davis is now and at all times relevant hereto was a member of the CHRB and at all times mentioned herein was acting in her official capacity in doing the things hereinafter alleged.
- Defendant Thomas C. Hudnut is now and at all times relevant hereto was a member 9. of the CHRB and at all times mentioned herein was acting in his official capacity in doing the things hereinafter alleged.

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- Defendant Wendy Mitchell is now and at all times relevant hereto was a member of 10. the CHRB and at all times mentioned herein was acting in her official capacity in doing the things hereinafter alleged.
- The CHRB, its Chairman, its Vice Chairman, its Executive Director, and its 11. Members, identified above, are collectively referred to throughout this pleading as the CHRB "Agents."
- 12. The true names and capacities of defendants named as Doe 1 through Doe 100, inclusive, are presently unknown to Baltas. Baltas will amend this pleading, setting forth the true names and capacities of these fictitious defendants when they are ascertained. Baltas is informed and believes and, on that basis, alleges that each of the fictitious defendants has participated in the acts alleged in this pleading to have been done by the named defendants. Each reference in this pleading to "Agents," or a specifically named agent refers also to all and defendants sued under fictitious names.

II. INTRODUCTION

13. Baltas is among the nation's preeminent thoroughbred trainers. He has had hundreds of horses under his care and has been the trainer of record in thousands of races. In 2008, Baltas had a horse called Noble Reflection scheduled to run in the 10th race at Santa Anita Park ("Santa Anita") on May 8, 2022. A few hours before the race, one of Baltas' employees were seen on videotape administering an oral dose syringe into the horse's mouth. A syringe was subsequently recovered from a feed bag that was tested and had allegedly traces of Higenamine and Paeonol, which are organic liquids that are found naturally in Chinese herbs. Notably, after Noble Reflection was scratched from the race, it was tested and the test results were "clean," and neither Higenamine nor Paeonol were found in the horse.

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III. FACTUAL SUMMARY

- 14. Based on the film footage of Noble Reflection, Santa Anita went back and reviewed footage of Baltas' trained horses from earlier dates and allegedly found 22 other times when a Baltas employee squirted a substance in a horse's mouth. Unlike the situation with Noble Reflection, there was no syringe found in the other 21 instances to be tested. Instead, the CHRB *assumed* the substance in the other 22 cases going back to April 15, 2022, was the same that was found in or on the outside of the syringe found on May 8, 2022. None of the 21 horses that raced ever tested positive for a Controlled or Prohibited Substance.
- 15. On May 10, 2022, the Santa Anita and/or the CHRB and its agents went back retroactively to review videotaped footage of Baltas' horses from April 15, 2022, up through May 8, 2022, and allegedly saw 22 horses trained by Baltas receiving an orally administered liquid that they contend was "X-Treme Air Boost", which is a product advertised for use in horses in the Santa Anita Condition Book. The CHRB has never explained its decision for going back in time to find violations in the past, and its conduct demonstrates that they and/or the Defendants herein intended to target Baltas to find as many violations as possible. Such conduct demonstrates malice and oppression on the part of the CHRB and its Agents. Although no syringe was located in the 22 other cases, the CHRB assumed the product was X-Treme Air Boost. As noted, above, . As noted above, none of the 21 horses that raced ever tested positive for a Controlled or Prohibited Substance.

 Because the ingredients in question are food which are expressly excepted under Rule 1843.5; that is, they are not within the Statue or any ruling of this Court.
- 16. Based on these facts, on May 10, 2022, Aidan Butler, the Chief Executive Officer of the 1/ST, the owner of Santa Anita Park, acting on behalf of Santa Anita, notified Baltas that he was prevented from entering any horses at Santa Anita.

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17. On June 22, 2022, the CHRB filed an Ex Parte Application with the Stewards at the Los Alamitos Racetrack ("Los Alamitos") to refuse the entry of two horses trained by Baltas named "Parco" and "Candy for Carmel" to race at Los Alamitos. Per all CHRB's and all Racing Association Rules, both horses were eligible to race. The Stewards at Los Alamitos summarily denied these two entrees without a hearing or any form of due process. The denial constituted a de facto summary suspension that failed to comply with the requirements of Article 13 of the Administrative Procedures Act that is applicable to inform or temporary suspension (Gov. Code § 11460.10, et seq.). Los Alamitos conduct also violated two California Supreme Court cases, in which the Court held that due process safeguards must be followed before interfering with "vested fundamental rights" of an individual such as Baltas, to practice his licensed profession (Bixby v. Pierno (1981) 4 Cal. 3d 1360, 1369), and that the rights of individuals to have notice and a meaningful hearing must be conducted before there could be a significant deprivation of rights are caused by a private party as well as a governmental body (Pinkster v. Pacific Coast Soc. Of Ortho Dentists, (1969) 1 Cal. 3d 160. 165-166).

- The CHRB thereafter followed suit, and ultimately mandated that Baltas may not 18. enter any horses in the State of California, such that Baltas has not been allowed to enter a horse in the State of California from May 8, 2022 through the present date, causing him harm.
- 19. On June 29, 2022, Churchill Downs issued a de facto suspension to Baltas, a decision made, once again, without any due process. Baltas was treated by the Churchill Downs and the Defendants as "guilty," based solely on an allegation, and without any consideration to the alleged harm he would suffer.

A. CHRB RULE 1843.5

20. On June 24, 2022, Baltas' counsel served discovery on the CHRB. To date, the CHRB has not complied in full with this discovery, thereby forcing Baltas to proceed with

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information and documents that are being withheld and concealed from him, all of which violated Baltas substantive and procedural due process rights.

Before June 21, 2022, Executive Director Scott Chaney (Chaney") represented to 21. then Baltas the attorney, Darrell Vienna, that any complaint filed by the CHRB against Baltas would not contain alleged violations related to prohibited substances. Then on June 21, 2022, the CHRB filed a 47 count complaint which, much to the surprise of Attorney Vienna and his former client Baltas, not only contained 23 counts of violations of CHRB Rule 1843.5, but, contrary to the representations made by Chaney on behalf of the CHRB, but also contained 23 counts of violations of CHRB Rule 1887 (a) (the so called "Trainer Insurer Rule") which included references to Higenamine and Paeonol, plus one count of a violation of CHRB Rule 1902, which is short titled as "Conduct Detrimental to Horse Racing." Although Baltas' representative complained that Chaney did not honor the representations were made, and that CHRB Rule 1887(a) requires a finding of a prohibited drug substance, the CHRB filed a Complaint that contradicted Chaney's prior representations. None of the counts in the CHRB Complaint are valid, and each of them reflect a malicious intent by the Defendants, and each of them herein. Neither Chaney nor the CHRB ever explained why they reneged on Chaney's representation and the Baltas/CHRB agreement that the complaint would not allege violations related to prohibited substances.

22. As a result, of the CHRB's conduct, Baltas could not enter any horses at California racetracks from May 8, 2022 through the present date, thereby costing him many thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars, and stands to lose many millions of dollars in damages in an amount to be determined at jury trial for lost earnings, the loss of clients who entrusted their horses training to him, and an irrevocable damage to his reputation. In a shocking conversation, Chaney suggested to Baltas, through his former counsel, that the CHRB would accept a one-year suspension, and possibly credit Baltas for the two months served which was the time frame from which Baltas

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had not been allowed to enter any horses in the State, which is wildly excessive and disparate to any other trainer punishment imposed by the CHRB, and was obviously punitive in nature in that it would effectively terminate Baltas' career as a trainer. Others facing similar charges arising out of CHRB Rule 1843.5 in the past received far more lenient sentences, including monetary fines in lieu of a year-long license suspension.

California Code Regs. Title 4 § 1843.5 provides, in relevant part, as follows: 23. Section 1843.5 - Medication, Drugs and Other Substances Permitted After Entry in a Race

- a. In this article a horse is deemed "entered" in a race 48 hours before post time of the running of the race.
- b. Water, hay, and grain may be provided to the horse up until post time.
- c. Drugs, medications or any other substances shall not be administered by any means to a horse after it is deemed entered to race except:
 - i. Topical medications, (such as antiseptics, ointments, salves, leg rubs, leg paints' hoof dressings, liniments and antiphlogistics) which do not contain anesthetics or other prohibited drugs.
- d. Any drug, medication or any substance found in a test sample taken from a horse which is not authorized under this rule shall be deemed a prohibited drug substance.
- In addition to the substances named in subsection (c) (1). Any of the following substances may be administered under Rule 1845 of this division within 24 hours of the post time of the race in which the horse is entered:
 - i. Furosemide:
 - ii. Only water may be used to wash the horse's mouth on race day.

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h. Drugs, medications, or any other substances may not be administered to a horse by injection, via nasogastric tube (stomach tubing) or any other means after the horse is entered to race, except under these regulations. [Emphasis added.]

- As to Noble Reflection, Baltas' employee Martin Valenzuela ("Valenzuela") did 24. provide X-Treme Air Boost Paste to Noble Reflection because the horse bleeds. Valenzuela explained that the paste, which is advertised in Santa Anita's own Condition Book helps prevent the horse from bleeding. In light of the publicity associated with horses dying or being mistreated, Baltas has authorized the use of this product for the safety of the horse in question, but always to be applied well in 3 to 4 days in advance of the horses race day, and in compliance with CHRB Rule 1843.5, such that Valenzuela, and not Baltas, mistakenly administered on race day, which was contrary to Baltas instructions to administer the product will in advance of race day in compliance with CHRB Rule 1843.5. Thus, Valenzuela acted contrary to Baltas' instructions and without Baltas' knowledge or consent
- The manufacturer of X-Treme Air Boost has confirmed that their product does not 25. contain Higenamine and Paeonol. Notably, only 1 of 23 horses at issues that involved the CHRB locating and testing a syringe. Any assumption by the CHRB that the syringe that was applied in the other 22 horses. and substance named in the Complaint. X-Treme Air Boost is exactly that - an assumption. The reason for the CHRB's retroactive investigation is that Baltas is being targeted by the Defendants to deprive his of his right to use his license in a way that is motivated by malice and oppression on the part of the CHRB and its Agents.
- 26. The two ingredients allegedly found on the syringe believed to be used in treating Noble Reflection are allegedly "Higenamine" and "Paeonol." Notably both of these ingredients are derived from organic, Chinese herbal products used to treat or benefit horses for various health reasons, and neither ingredient is identified or listed as a "Controlled and/or Prohibited Substance" under the Uniform Classification Guideline for Foreign Substance and Recommended Penalties Model Rule as promulgated by the Association of Racing Commissioners Intention ("ARCI"). For example, Higenamine is 100% organic, not a drug, and is found in a variety of plants including Nandina domestica (fruit), aconitum carmichaelii (root), Asarum heterotropioides, Galium

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divaricatum (stem and vine), and Annona squamosa, and Nelumbo nucifera (lotus seeds). Similarly, Paeonol is also not a drug, also purely organic, and comes from Nandina domestica.

- 27. Neither of these natural herbal products are performing enhancing in horses, and both fall within the exception of CHRB Rule 1843.5 allowing water and food, as both are organic foods; both of which are allowable on race day under Rule 1843.5.
- Another express exception to CHRB rule is found at 1843.5 (g)(2) which provide, 28. "Only water may be used to wash the horse's mouth on race day." Many horses develop dry mouth when they run, which can impede their breathing. To address this issue, and for the comfort and safety of the horse, Baltas asks his employees on race day to squirt water into the horse's mouth with an oral dose syringe, as it is often easier way to apply water into a horse mouth than it is to get them to drink from a hose when they are not thirsty. Often empty syringes from X-Treme Air Boost and Calm and Cool are reused to shoot water into the horse's mouth. Such conduct falls expressly within the allowed exception to CHRB Rule 1843.5.

R. **CHRB RULE 1887(a)**

- Baltas is charged with twenty-three (23) counts of violating CHRB Rule 1887(a), the 29. so-called "Trainer Insurer Rule," Rule 1887(a) provides, in relevant part:
 - "(a) The trainer is the absolute trainer of and responsible for the condition of horses entered in a race, regardless of the acts of third parties, except as otherwise provided in this article. If the chemical or other analysis of urine or blood test samples or other tests, prove positive showing the presence of any prohibited drug substance defined in Rule 1842.1 of this division, the trainer of the horse may be fined, his/her license suspended or revoked, or be rules off. In addition, the owner of the horse, foreman in charge of the horse, groom, and any other person shown to have had the care or attendance of the horse, may be fined, his/her license suspended, revoked, or be ruled off. The owner of a ship-in horse is the joint-absolute insurer of and is equally responsible for the condition of the horse entered in a race." [Emphasis added.]

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C. CHRB RULE 1888

- 30. CHRB Rule 1888, "Defense of Trainer Insurer Rule," provides, in relevant part:

 "A trainer or other person charged with a violation of Rule 1887 of this division may defend, mitigate or appeal the charge if:
 - (a) He was not, before the commencement of any proceeding against him, informed of the charges being brought against him;
 - (b) He was not permitted counsel, representation or an advisor of his choosing in any hearing before the stewards concerning the charges:
 - (c) He shows, by a preponderance of evidence, that he made every reasonable effort to protect the horses in his care from tampering by unauthorized persons; and
 - (d) He was not permitted to introduce evidence in his own behalf before any finding or ruling was made against him. Nothing herein shall require that the stewards permit cross-examination of any witness appearing before them, or issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses. [Emphasis added.]
- 31. Baltas has been adversely affected by the Defendants' unconstitutional application of CHRB Rule 1888 and will continue to be adversely affected for as long as the CHRB Rule 1888 as applied by Defendants is allowed to remain in effect and continues to be enforced in an illegal manner.
- 32. In this case, The CHRB has and does unconstitutionally hold trainers responsible for anything that is done under their care. CHRB Rule 1887(a) has come under increasing criticism throughout the country on Constitutional and fairness grounds. California courts have recognized that any strict liability standard for criminal or quasi-criminal conduct is unconstitutional, so the California Trainer Insurer Rule was changed (on its face, at least) to allow trainers to defend themselves by showing that they took reasonable steps to prevent employees from tampering with his horses. However, this defense was rendered illusory by a Board that made it impossible to mount

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such a defense and thus denied Baltas due process. Moreover, a plain reading of section 1887 reveals that it does not apply here because the Rule is only to be applied when

"
[C]hemical or other analyses of urine or blood test samples or other tests are not applied.

- "...[C]hemical or other analyses of urine or blood test samples or other tests, prove positive showing the presence of any Prohibited Drug Substance defined in Rule 1843.1 of this division."
- 33. CHRB Rule 1843.1 provides, in relevant part:
 - "For purposes of this division, prohibited drug substances means (a) any drug, substance, medication or chemical foreign to the horse, whether natural or synthetic, or metabolite or analog thereof, whose use is not expressly authorized in this article.

 (b) any drug, substance, medical or chemical authorized by this article in excess of the authorized level or other restrictions as set forth in this article."

Because Higenamine and Paeonol, do not qualify as a prohibitive drug substance under CHRB Rule 1843.1, all of the CHRB claims asserted against Baltas arising out of 1887(a) are improper.

- 34. The CHRB's motivation for punishing Baltas is based on the fact that Baltas exercised his First Amendment Rights by being vocal against CHRB Officials, and other trainers who use drugs to enhance the speed of horses in an unsafe manner.
- Baltas take a one-year suspension of his license, the CHRB and its Agents seek to impose a penalty against Baltas that is unprecedented, excessive, and is being imposed by its Agents maliciously. This draconian punishment is substantially greater than any prior punishment imposed by the CHRB and its Agents, particularly in light of the fact that the not a single one of Baltas' horses in this matter tested positive. Such punishment not only violates Baltas' due process rights, but is a violation of Balatas' rights under 49 U.S.C 1983, the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, and Article I, §7, of the California Constitution.
- 36. CHRB Rule 1887(a), as implemented by Respondents and their agents, is unconstitutional in that it violates Baltas' rights to due process of the law as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defendants

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essentially require a trainer to insure 24-hour video surveillance over every horse he trains as a precondition to utilizing the CHRB Rule 1888 defense against strict liability. Defendants have, therefore, made it impossible for an innocent trainer who has not violated any regulations to avoid being use of penalized. By their actions, Defendants have also unfairly enacted absolute preconditions for the use of CHRB Rule actions, 1888 defense without have having given trainers any advance notice of these preconditions. As a result, Defendants' application of the rule is manifestly unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious, and has no real or substantial relation to public health, safety, morals, or general welfare.

- The record below clearly demonstrates that the CHRB used an unconstitutional strict 37. liability rule to impose a severe penalty on Baltas. Defendants essentially require a trainer to ensure 24-hour video surveillance over every horse he or she trains a pre-condition to utilizing the CHRB Rule 1888 defense to strict liability. Thus, even though there is no evidence that Baltas' trainer had done any wrong, the CHRB exacerbated the facial unconstitutionality of the Trainer Insurer Rule by eviscerating the one defense to strict liability. It then threatened to impose a punishment that bore no responsibility to the alleged crime - a punishment that was dramatically increased by the CHRB without any hearing. In doing so, the CHRB violated its own Rules, the laws and Constitution of the state of California and the United States Constitution.
- 38. The one-year suspension of Baltas license during which Baltas would have been prevented from entering horses is unprecedented and is the equivalent of a death sentence to a horse trainer. If such a suspension is entered here, Baltas will lose his horses, his barn, his clients, his livelihood, and his career. Additionally, the imposition of such a draconian sentence would represent a wildly excessive and disparate penalty when compared to prior punishments handed out by the CHRB in similar cases, which have often been handled with the imposition of a monetary fine or a sentence for shorter disciplinary cases than the three months (e.g., Carla Gaines being fined for a dollar amount), as opposed to Baltas, who faces a year-long suspension, which is a punishment that would be tantamount to ending Baltas' career as a horse trainer.

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39. By contrast, Baltas has already been deprived of entering horses despite the nonexistence of any adverse ruling following a hearing against him, and despite the fact that he has had no opportunity to testify, to call witnesses for his behalf, to submit evidence, to cross-examine his accusers, or to have the advantage of a full and fair hearing, assuming the CHRB and its Agents, the Board of Standards, are capable of giving Baltas a fair hearing which remains to be seen. Baltas reserves the right to amend this Complaint to name any hearing officer who in any way is biased against him or who in any way impedes his right to a fair hearing.

D. <u>SECTION 1902 - CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO HORSE RACING</u>

40. Baltas is also charged with a violation of CHRB Rule 1902. Rule 1902 provides, in relevant part:

"No licensee shall engage in any conduct prohibited by this division, nor shall any licensee engage in any conduct which by its nature is detrimental to the best interests of horse racing including, but not limited to:

- (a) knowing association with any known bookmaker, known tout, or known felon,
- (b) indictment or arrest for a crime involving moral turpitude or which is punishable by imprisonment in the state or federal prison, when such indictment or arrest is the subject of notorious or widespread publicity in the news media, and when there is probable cause to believe the licensee committed the offenses charged,
- (c) solicitation of or aiding and abetting any other person to participate in any act or conduct prohibited by this division."

E. THE CHRB COMPLAINT

- 41. The addition of CHRB Rule 1902 is, for lack of a better term, piling on" Baltas. The Rule requires either:
 - (a) knowing association with any known bookmaker, known tout, or known felon, [Not present here.]
 - (b) indictment or arrest for a crime involving moral turpitude or which is punishable by imprisonment in the state or federal prison, when such indictment or arrest is the

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subject of notorious or widespread publicity in the news media, and when there is probable cause to believe the licensee committed the offenses charged, [Again, no allegation the CHRB Complaint.]

(c) solicitation of or aiding and abetting any other person to participate in any act or conduct prohibited by this division. [No aiding and abetting are alleged in the Complaint against Baltras]. [Emphasis added.]

In California, the term "moral turpitude" refers to categories of crimes that involve dishonesty, or a base, vile, or depraved conduct that is shocking to a reasonable person such as murder, embezzlement, burglary, robbery, perjury, and aggravated assault.

- On or about June 21, 2022, under the Business & Profession Code section 19420 and 42. a certain Complaint filed by CHRB, alleging that Baltas violated CHRB Rules 1843.5, 1887(a), and 1902.
- The CHRB Complaint, Exhibit A, is invalid under CCP § 1094.5 for at least the 43. following reasons:
 - As noted above, based on the allegations in the Complaint, Baltas was offered a year-long suspension in lieu of a hearing or an opportunity to present evidence. The CHRB demand was excessively high, particularly given the complete lack of evidence that the condition of any of the 23 horses in question was affected, none of the 23 tested positive for prohibited substances or even organic substances such as Higenamine and Paeonol.
 - The CHRB ignored the CHRB Rules and prior precedent relevant to the b. imposing of penalties for the alleged violation. Moreover, similarly situated trainers were treated with much more lenience than Baltas for offenses that actually harmed the horses in question.
 - The CHRB's charges fails to abide by the text or spirit of the CHRB Rule c. 1888. The CHRB's Trainer Insurer Rule, Rule 1887(a), states that "[t]he trainer is the absolute insurer of and responsible for the condition of the horses entered in a race, regardless of the acts of third parties, except as otherwise provided in this article." In order to protect

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the due process rights of the trainers, however, CHRB Rule 1888 allows a trainer to defend against a charge by showing "by a preponderance of evidence, that he made every reasonable effort to protect the horses in his care from tampering by unauthorized persons." The CHRB's Decision wholly ignores the due process rights which underlie CHRB Rule 1888.

- The CHRB Rules regarding conflict of interests, on their face and as applied d. by the CHRB, violated Baltas' rights to due process under the California and Federal Constitution by allowing CHRB consultants and officers and experts with clearly demonstrated bias to participate in the testing of Baltas' horses and in the prosecution of accusation against him.
- The CHRB was biased against Baltas and prejudged this case. Prior to the e. hearing, the CHRB's representatives made inflammatory comments to the press that reveal the CHRB's bias. Among other things, the CHRB, acting through its Agents, strongly inferred that Baltas was guilty of all charges, thereby irrevocably damaging Baltas' reputation and career.
- By the foregoing acts, the CHRB denied Baltas substantive and procedural due 44. process guaranteed under 49 U.S.C. 1983.
- By the foregoing actions, the CHRB denied Baltas substantive and procedural due 45. process guaranteed to him under the California Constitution, Article 1, section 7.
- By the foregoing actions, the CHRB denied Baltas substantive and procedural due 46. process guaranteed to him under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- Baltas has or is in the process of exhausting all available administrative remedies 47. required by the CHRB, has no appeal, and this lawsuit may proceed pursuant to BPC § 19463.
- As a result of the CHRB's action, Baltas has already sustained hundreds of dollars if 48. not thousands of dollars in damages resulting from his inability to practice his trade of horse training. If Baltas is suspended for a full year, he will lose all his horses, his livelihood, and his career, which will be shown through expert testimony at trial to be an amount of many, many million of dollars, but not less than \$10,000,000. The CHRB, and other defendants named herein are liable for these damages under CCP § 1095, 42 U.S.C. 1983, California Constitution Art. 1, §7.

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FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Deprivation of Substantive Due Process - United States Constitution, 14th Amendment, 42 U.S.C. and § 1983 - Against All Defendants, and DOES 1 through 100)

- Baltas realleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 48, above, each of 49. which are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- Baltas possesses a constitutionally protected property interest in his license to engage 50. in his profession as a horse trainer.
- Baltas at all times mentioned herein had a right under the Fourteenth Amendment of 51. the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to substantive due process in administrative determinations made under color of state laws.
- At all times mentioned herein, Defendants, and each of them, participated in the acts 52. of the CHRB addressed herein as Agents of the CHRB and, in doing so, acted in their official capacity under color of state law.
- CHRB Rule 1887(a), states, in relevant part "[t]he trainer is the absolute insurer of 53. and responsible for the condition of the horses entered in a race, regardless of the acts of third parties, except as otherwise provided in this article." Thus, Rule 1887(a) allows strict liability penalties against a trainer even for acts of third parties of which the trainer had no knowledge, except as provided in CHRB Rule 1888. Among other things, CHRB Rule 1888 allows a trainer the option to defend against a charge by showing "by a preponderance of evidence, that he made every reasonable effort to protect the horses in his care from tampering by unauthorized persons."
- CHRB Rule 1888(a), as implemented by their Agents, is unconstitutional in that it 54. violates Baltas' rights to due process of the law as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983. By their actions, Defendants have also unfairly enacted absolute preconditions for the use of the CHRB Rule 1888 defense without having given trainers any advanced notice of these preconditions. As a result, Defendants' application of the rule

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is manifestly unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious, and has no real or substantial relation to public health, safety, morals, or general welfare.

- In addition, CHRB 1843.5 as implemented by the CHRB and its Agents, violates 55. Baltas' right to due process of the law as guaranteed in the by their application of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Article I, §7, of the California Constitution.
- Baltas has been adversely affected by the Defendants' unconstitutional application of 56. CHRB Rule 1888 and will continue to be adversely affected for as long as the CHRB Rule 1888 as applied by Defendants is allowed to remain in effect and continues to be enforced and as long as Defendants' Decision remains in force.
- 57. Baltas is entitled to declaratory and/or other equitable relief, including but not limited to, an injunction or other appropriate order directing Defendants to set aside the complaint manifested by their application of CHRB Rules 1846.5 and 1887(a) that is an unlawful and unconstitutional adjudication in violation of the. Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Deprivation of Procedural Due Process - United States Constitution, 141h Amendment, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and California Constitution Article I, §7 - By Plaintiff Baltas Against All Defendants)

- Baltas realleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 57 above, each of which are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- Baltas at all times mentioned herein had a right under the Fourteenth Amendment of 59. the United States Constitution, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Article I, §7, of the California Constitution.
- As described above, Defendants violated Baltas' procedural due process rights by 60. failing to provide fair and unbiased procedures through which he could defend against the accusation and the penalty imposed by Defendants. These violations include but are not limited to the CHRB's application of CHRB Rule 1888, and the inadequacy and wrongful application of CHRB's rules and procedures regarding conflicts of interest. In addition, CHRB Rule 1843.5, as implemented by the

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CHRB and its Agents, violates Baltas' rights to due process of the law as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Article I, §7, of the California Constitution.

- Baltas has been adversely affected by the Defendants' failure to provide fair and unbiased procedures, including but not limited to, Defendants' unconstitutional application of CHRB Rule 1843.5, CHRB Rule 18B8, and the CHRB's hearing officer selection and conflict of interest rules/practices. Baltas will continue to be adversely affected for as long as this rules are allowed to remain in effect and continue to be enforced in the way the CHRB bas chosen and as long as Defendants' Decision remains in force.
- Baltas is entitled to declaratory and/or other equitable relief, including but not limited 62. to, an injunction or other appropriate order directing Defendants to set aside any decision arising out of their application of CHRB Rule 1887(a) as an unlawful and unconstitutional adjudication in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Article I, §7, of the California Constitution.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Declaratory arid Injunctive Relief – Against All Defendants)

- 63. Baltas realleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 62 above, each of which are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 64. At all times mentioned herein there existed CHRB Rules 1887 and 1843.5, and the CHRB's hearing officer selection and conflict of interest rules/practices.
- In pertinent part, Rule CHRB 1888 reads: "A trainer or other person charged with a 65. violation of Rule 1887 of this division may defend, mitigate or appeal the charge if: He shows, by a preponderance of evidence, that he made every reasonable effort to protect the horses in his care from tampering by unauthorized persons."
- 66. A material controversy has arisen between Baltas and Defendants as to the constitutionality of Defendants' requirement that in order to use the defense to strict liability under CHRB Rule 1888, a licensee must install 24-hour surveillance in the barns of the horses he or she

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trains. A material controversy has also arisen between Baltas and Defendants as to the constitutionality of CHRB Rule 1843.5 as applied.

- 67. Baltas alleges that he is entitled to a declaration from this Court that Defendants' application of CHRB Rules 1843.5 and 1887(a) as applied by the Defendants deprives Baltas of due process and are unconstitutional of the law as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Article I, §7, of the California Constitution.
- Baltas also seeks an injunction preventing Defendants from applying the CHRB Rule 68. 1888 defense to require the use of 24-hour video surveillance in barns, preventing Defendants from enforcing CHRB Rule 1843.5, and enjoining the CHRB from illegally enforcing its rules in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United Stat.es Constitution, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, end Article I, §7, of the California Constitution.

WHEREFORE, Baltas prays herein: that:

- Special compensatory damages for monies already lost and for future damages in an 1. amount commensurate with what Baltas would have earned if his reputation was not destroyed by the Defendants in an amount according to proof (an estimate to be worth what he would have earned in his career) to be proven by expert testimony at trial, in an amount believed to be in excess of \$10,000,000;
- 2. General damages in the form of emotional and psychological distress, pain and suffering, anxiety, stress, depression, worry, inconvenience in an amount to be proven by expert psychiatric testimony at time of trial, but in excess of \$2,000,000:
- Punitive damages for the malicious, oppressive and/or fraudulent conduct of the 3. CHRB, its Agents, and the other Defendants named herein, in an amount based on the wealth of the Defendants that is sufficient to deter such conduct against other licensed horse trainers in the future:
- Cost in this action, including attorney's fees under CCP §1095, 1028.5(a) and Govt. 4. Code § 800, et seq.;
- 5. Declaratory, injunctive and equitable relief as addressed above:
- 6. Such other relief to be granted that the Court considers proper;

	1	7.	A stay on I	Defendants'	Decision unt	il this Court h	as an oppo	rtunity to rul	e on a
	2	Noticed Motion for Stay on the implementation of any suspension of Baltas' license.							
	3								
	4	Dated: Augus	st 17, 2022			HANEY &	SHAH, LL	P	
	5					- 5	Han	rest	
	6					By: Steven H. H Kenneth W.		- 1	
	7					Kenneth W. Attorneys fo	Baisch, Es r Plaintiff.	q.	
	8					RICHARD I	BALTAS		
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20 COMPLAINT

### DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, RICHARD BALTAS, hereby demands trial by jury for this case.

Dated: August 17, 2022

HANEY & SHAH, LLP

Steven H. Haney, Esq. (Kenneth W. Baisch, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff, RICHARD BALTAS

Haney

HANEY & SHAH, LLP 1055 WEST SEVENTH STREET, SUITE 1950 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017 TELEPHONE: (213) 228-6500 FACSIMILE: (213) 228-6501

- -

COMPLAINT

# HANEY & SHAH, LLP JSS WEST SEVENTH STREET, SUITE 1950 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017 TELEPHONE: (213) 228-6500

### **VERIFICATION**

I am the petitioner and plaintiff in this proceeding. I have read the foregoing petition and complaint and know the contents thereof. The facts alleged in the above petition and complaint are true of my knowledge except that as to those matters which are therein alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: Aug. 17, 2022

Richard Baltas (Aug 17, 2022 13:25 PDT)

RICHARD BALTAS

### SKM_C75922081712160

Final Audit Report

2022-08-17

Created:

2022-08-17

Bv:

Lauren Moorehead (Imoorehead@haneyshah.com)

Status:

Signed

Transaction ID:

CBJCHBCAABAAaC0K36LYikfrLxwwxlx4HNImtrevQ-uq

### "SKM_C75922081712160" History

- Document created by Lauren Moorehead (Imoorehead@haneyshah.com) 2022-08-17 8:11:44 PM GMT- IP address: 216,240,42,164
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- Signer richardbaltas@gmail.com entered name at signing as Richard Baltas 2022-08-17 8:25:22 PM GMT- IP address: 107.77.231.47
- Ocument e-signed by Richard Baltas (richardbaltas@gmail.com)
  Signature Date: 2022-08-17 8:25:24 PM GMT Time Source: server- IP address: 107.77.231.47
- Agreement completed. 2022-08-17 - 8:25:24 PM GMT

# EXHIBIT A

Complaint and Notice to Appear CHRB - 65 (REV 11/03)

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95825

### **COMPLAINT**

CASE NUMBER: 22SA0092

The CHRB hereby files a complaint against Richard Baltas for violation of CHRB Rule 1843.5 (23 counts), 1887(a) (23 counts), and 1902 (1 count). The person named in this complaint holds a license as a trainer, license number 232550-05/2022. The offense alleged occurred on or about 4/15/2022 to 5/8/2022 and is as follows:

Between the dates of 4/15/2022 to 5/8/2022, 23 horses trained by RICHARD BALTAS were administered a substance on days they were entered into races. Surveillance video captured all administrations by employees of BALTAS' barn. The substance was analyzed by University of California, Davis, who reported the presence of Higenamine and Paeonol.

Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 19420, 19440, and CHRB Rules, the stewards are empowered to impose penalties for violation of any provision of the CHRB Rules. Such penalties may consist of suspension of any license, fines, and exclusion from all racing enclosures under the jurisdiction of the Board or by any combination of these penalties.

	Date :6/21/2022	Complainant :CHRB
•	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	\$

### NOTICE TO APPEAR

To Richard Baltas you are hereby notified to appear before the Board of Stewards at the below listed location, date, and time.

Location: Los Alamitos	Date: 7/1/2022	Time: <b>10:00 a.m.</b>

You are entitled to reasonable notice of the hearing and reasonable time to prepare for the hearing. If you need additional time to prepare for the hearing, you must contact the Board of Stewards within 72 hours of receipt of this notice. All requests for a continuance must be in writing. You should be prepared to justify your request for additional time. Granting or denial of a request for additional time is within the sound discretion of the stewards. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the GOVERNING PROCEDURES FOR HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF STEWARDS, a copy of which is attached to this Complaint and Notice to Appear.

Investigator	Date
Michael Barker	June 21, 2022

### **DISPOSITION OF CASE**

The stewards have taken	the following	action on CASE	NUMBER:	22SA0092
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Steward	Date
 Steward	Date
Steward	Date

### GOVERNING PROCEDURE FOR DISCIPLINARY HEARING BEFORE BOARD OF STEWARDS

- 1. The CHRB will provide you notice and an opportunity to be heard, including the opportunity to present and rebut evidence. (Government Code § 11425.10(a)(1))
- 2. Every person who is called to testify before the stewards is entitled to have counsel or an observer of his choosing present at the hearing; provided, however, that such counsel or observer shall only participate under such conditions or in such manner as the stewards may direct. (4 CCR 1539)
- 3. The hearing shall be open to the public as provided in Government Code § 11425.20, which states:
  - (a) Nothing in this subdivision limits the authority of the presiding officer to order closure of a hearing or make other protective orders to the extent necessary or proper for any of the following purposes:
    - (1) To satisfy the United States Constitution, the California Constitution, federal or state statute, or other law, including but not limited to laws protecting privileged, confidential, or other protected information.
    - (2) To ensure a fair hearing in the circumstances of the particular case.
    - (3) To conduct the hearing, including the manner of examining witnesses, in a way that is appropriate to protect a minor witness or a witness with a developmental disability, as defined in Section 4512 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, from intimidation or other harm, taking into account the rights of all persons.
  - (b) To the extent a hearing is conducted by telephone, television, or other electronic means, subdivision (a) is satisfied if members of the public have an opportunity to do both of the following:
    - (1) At reasonable times, hear or inspect the agency's record, and inspect any transcript obtained by the agency.
    - (2) Be physically present at the place where the presiding officer is conducting the hearing.
  - (c) This section does not apply to a prehearing conference, settlement conference, or proceedings for alternative dispute resolution other than binding arbitration.
- 4. The presiding officer is subject to disqualification for bias, prejudice, or interest as provided in Government Code § 11425.40, which states:
  - (a) The presiding officer is subject to disqualification for bias, prejudice, or interest in the proceeding.
  - (b) It is not alone or in itself grounds for disqualification, without further evidence of bias, prejudice, or interest, that the presiding officer:
    - (1) Is or is not a member of a racial, ethnic, religious, sexual, or similar group and the proceeding involves the rights of that group.
    - (2) Has experience, technical competence, or specialized knowledge of, or has in any capacity expressed a view on, a legal, factual, or policy issue presented in the proceeding.
    - (3) Has as a lawyer or public official participated in the drafting of laws or regulations or in the effort to pass or defeat laws or regulations, the meaning, effect, or application of which is in issue in the proceeding.
  - (c) The provisions of this section governing disqualification of the presiding officer also govern disqualification of the agency head or other person or body to which the power to hear or decide in the proceeding is delegated.

### GOVERNING PROCEDURE CHRB-204A-1 (Rev 12/2016)

- (d) An agency that conducts an adjudicative proceeding may provide by regulation for peremptory challenge of the presiding officer.
- Ex parte communications shall be restricted as provided in Government Code §§ 11430.10 through 5. 11430.80, which states in part:
  - (a) While the proceeding is pending there shall be no communication, direct or indirect, regarding any issue in the proceeding, to the presiding officer from an employee or representative of an agency that is a party or from an interested person outside the agency, without notice and opportunity for all parties to participate in the communication.
  - (b) Nothing in this section precludes a communication, including a communication from an employee or representative of an agency that is a party, made on the record at the hearing.
  - (c) For the purpose of this section, a proceeding is pending from the issuance of the agency's pleading, or from an application for an agency decision, whichever is earlier. (Government Code § 114230.10)
- 6. The board, its executive director, or the stewards, may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or the production of any records, books, memoranda, documents, or other papers or things, as is necessary to enable any of them to effectually discharge their duties, and may administer oaths or affirmations as necessary in connection therewith. (Business and Professions Code § 19435)
- The stewards may refer any matter within their jurisdiction to the Board when the penalty the stewards have 7. jurisdiction to impose is insufficient when a hearing cannot be held under the conditions or in the manner prescribed, when a hearing is impractical due to conclusion of the meeting, or for other good and sufficient cause, and they may order the suspension of the licensee pending further Order of the Board. In such event, the Board shall accept the matter for hearing and adjudication or such other action as the Board deems to be in the best interests of justice. (4 CCR 1529)
- 8. A verbatim record shall be made of all hearings before the stewards in any matter other than those relating solely to riding infractions where the penalty imposed by the stewards is ten (10) days or less suspension, or those relating to license application recommendations. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, and at the stewards' discretion, the racing association shall provide either a certified court reporter or electronic recording equipment to record all hearings. Such recording equipment shall include, but not be limited to. tape recorder(s), at least three (3) microphones and a sufficient supply of recording tapes. The cost of such reporter and recording equipment shall be assumed be the racing association conducting the racing meeting. The taped recording(s) shall be stored and maintained by the Board for a minimum of sixty (60) days after the initial hearing or in the event an appeal is filed, a minimum of sixty (60) days after an appeal is heard and decided by the Board. Upon the request of the Executive Director or his/her designee, the racing association shall furnish an original and two copies of the hearing transcript to the Executive Director. (4 CCR 1537)
- 9. The decision shall be in writing, be based on the record, and include a statement of the factual and legal basis of the decision as provided in Government Code section 11425.50. (Government Code & 11425.10(a)(6))
- From every decision of the stewards, except a decision concerning the disqualification of a horse due to a 10. foul or a riding or driving infraction, an appeal may be made to the Board. Appeals shall be made in writing, stating the reason or reasons for the appeal, and shall be signed by the appellant, appellant's attorney, or appellant's representative. Appeals shall be received by a Board employee at any of its offices, not later than seventy-two (72) hours from the date of the decision of the stewards unless the Board for

CHRB-204A-1 (Rev 12/2016)

good cause extends the time for filing. An appeal shall not affect a decision of the stewards until the appeal has been sustained or dismissed or a stay order issued by the Chairman. (4 CCR 1761)

- 11. The Board shall notify the appellant, the stewards and all licensees or other persons affected by decision under appeal of the date, time and location of its hearing in the matter. The burden shall be on the appellant to prove the facts necessary to sustain the appeal. (4 CCR 1764)
- 12. The Board, upon due consideration, may overrule any steward's decision other than a decision to disqualify a horse due to a foul or a riding or driving infraction in a race, if a preponderance of the evidence indicates any of the following:
  - (1) The steward mistakenly interpreted the law.
  - (2) New evidence of a convincing nature is produced.
  - (3) The best interests of racing and the state may be better served.

However, any decision pertaining to the finish of a race, as used for purposes of parimutuel fund distribution to winning ticketholders, may not be overruled. Furthermore, any decision pertaining to the distribution of purses may be changed only if a claim is made in writing to the board by one of the involved owners or trainers, and a preponderance of the evidence clearly indicates to the board that one or more of the grounds for protest, as outlined in regulations adopted by the board, has been substantiated. The chairperson of the board may issue a stay of execution pending appeal from a steward's decision if the facts justify the action. (Business and Professions Code § 19517)

- 13. The Board shall issue its decision upon any appeal in writing and such decision is subject to review by the court having jurisdiction. (4 CCR 1763)
- 14. Chapter 5 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code is not applicable to this proceeding.

- § 1843.5. Medication, Drugs and Other Substances Permitted After Entry in a Race.
- (a) In this article a horse is deemed "entered" in a race 48 hours before post time of the running of the race.
- (b) Water, hay, and grain may be provided to the horse up until post time.
- (c) Drugs, medications or any other substances shall not be administered by any means to a horse after it is deemed enter to race except:
- (1) Topical medications, (such as antiseptics, ointments, salves, leg rubs, leg paints, hoof dressings, liniments and antiphlogistics) which do not contain anesthetics or other prohibited drugs.
- (d) Any drug, medication or any other substance found in a test sample taken from a horse which is not authorized under this rule shall be deemed a prohibited drug substance.
- (e) Any of the following substances may be administered by injection until 24 hours before the post time of the race in which the horse is entered:
  - (1) Injectable Vitamins;
  - (2) Tetanus Antitoxin or Tetanus Toxoid, if the horse has sustained a wound.
- (f) Approved anti-ulcer medications may be administered until 24 hours before the post time of the race in which the horse is entered. A list of approved anti-ulcer medications, and route of administration, shall be posted at each racetrack in the office of the official veterinarian.
- (g) In addition to the substances named in subsection (c)(1), any of the following substances may be administered under Rule 1845 of this division within 24 hours of the post time of the race in which the horse is entered:
  - (1) Furosemide:
  - (2) Only water may be used to wash the horse's mouth on race day.
- (h) Drugs, medications or any other substances may not be administered to a horse by injection, via nasogastric tube (stomach tubing) or any other means after the horse is entered to race, except under these regulations.

- § 1887. Trainer or Owner to Insure Condition of Horse.
- (a) The trainer is the absolute insurer of and responsible for the condition of the horses entered in a race, regardless of the acts of third parties, except as otherwise provided in this article. If the chemical or other analysis of urine or blood test samples or other tests, prove positive showing the presence of any prohibited drug substance defined in Rule 1843.1 of this division, the trainer of the horse may be fined, his/her license suspended or revoked, or be ruled off. In addition, the owner of the horse, foreman in charge of the horse, groom, and any other person shown to have had the care or attendance of the horse, may be fined, his/her license suspended, revoked, or be ruled off. The owner of a ship-in horse is the joint-absolute insurer of and is equally responsible for the condition of the horse entered in a race.

- § 1902. Conduct Detrimental to Horse Racing. No licensee shall engage in any conduct prohibited by this division nor shall any licensee engage in any conduct which by its nature is detrimental to the best interests of horse racing including, but not limited to:
- (a) knowing association with any known bookmaker, known tout, or known felon,
- (b) indictment or arrest for a crime involving moral turpitude or which is punishable by imprisonment in the state or federal prison, when such indictment or arrest is the subject of notorious or widespread publicity in the news media, and when there is probable cause to believe the licensee committed the offenses charged,
- (c) solicitation of or aiding and abetting any other person to participate in any act or conduct prohibited by this Division



### STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD CHRB INVESTIGATION REPORT

CHRB-209 (REV. 10/3019)

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CASE NUMBER	***************************************
22SA0092	
CASE TITLE	

DATE	INVESTIGATOR
6/21/2022	Mike Barker
TRACK / LOCATION	OTHER INVESTIGATORS
Santa Anita	Jeanne-Candice Garrido
REPORT RE	
Baltas unauthorized substance on	race day

### Details:

On 5/8/2022 the Assistant Trainer for RICHARD BALTAS, MARTIN VALENZUELA, was seen by Santa Anita Surveillance Security Agent CORY MARTINEZ administering an unknown substance to horse "NOBLE REFLECTION" prior to the horse receiving Lasix administration. MARTINEZ notified the Santa Anita Stewards, who in turn notified Safety Steward GEORGE YNIGUEZ and Investigator JEANNE-CANDICE GARRIDO. GARRIDO and YNIGUEZ contacted VALENZUELA who initially said he did not administer anything to the horse. When told of the surveillance video VALENZUELA admitted to GARRIDO he gave the substance, which he identified as X-Treme Air Boost, to "NOBLE REFLECTION" to prevent it from bleeding on race day. VALENZUELA said he was supposed to give the treatment days before the race and "forgot," so he gave it to the horse on race day. VALENZUEZ did admit to GARRIDO he knew this was a violation. GARRIDO also spoke to BALTAS that day who also told her VALENZUELA forgot to administer the substance days before the race and made a mistake and administered it on race day.

The substance in question, the X-Treme Air Boost, was located discarded in BALTAS' barn by GARRIDO and YNIGUEZ and seized. It was then sent to Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis for analyzing. Refer to GARRIDO's attached report for complete details.

I took over the investigation from GARRIDO on 5/9/2022. On 5/10/2022 I was notified that available video had been reviewed by MARTINEZ that showed 23 of BALTAS' horses receiving the X-Treme Air Boost, and occasionally another substance later identified as Calm and Clear, between the dates of 4/15/2022 to 5/8/2022. All of the 23 horses received the X-Treme Air Boost on days they raced. The only horse that did not race was "NOBLE REFLECTION," which had been scratched by Santa Anita Stewards on 5/8/2022.

On 5/11/2022 I contacted MARTINEZ who showed me the video of "NOBLE REFLECTION" being administered the substance, as well as the other videos. When I reviewed the videos with MARTINEZ I saw the X-Treme Air Boost being administered to the horses mostly by VALENZUELA, but occasionally by other employees in BALTAS' barn. Also on 5/11/2022, I contacted the veterinarian for BALTAS' barn, Dr. MELINDA BLUE, and asked her about the X-Treme Air Boost being given to BALTAS' horses. Dr. BLUE told me she had not been aware of the horses being

INVESTIGATOR'S NAME	Market 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	APPROVED BY (SUPERVISING INVESTIGATOR'S NAME)		
Mike Barker		Mike Barker		
INVESTIGATOR'S SIGNATURE  Mi Bu	6-77-2 <b>3</b>	APPROVAL SIGNATURE  MUBOUL	DATE 6-22-22	



## STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD CHRB INVESTIGATION REPORT

CHRB-209 (REV. 10/3019)

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22SA0092

**CASE NUMBER** 

administered the substance and did not know what the substance was. Dr. BLUE said she only became aware of it when BALTAS mentioned it to her this week.

On 5/12/2022 all videos were formally requested and received by Santa Anita. I also received a list from MARTINEZ that showed all 23 horses that received treatment on race day. The list included the date of administration, the name of the horse, which race it was in, the time of treatment, and the placing in race.

That same day I interviewed VALENZUELA at BALTAS' barn. That interview was recorded with VALENZUELA's knowledge and permission. The following is a summary of that interview. I asked VALENZUELA to tell me about the X-Treme Air Boost. VALENZUELA said he made a mistake this past week and "accidentally" administered the substance on Sunday, which was 5/8/2022, but was supposed to administer it on Saturday. VALENZUELA said he got busy Saturday and forgot. VALENZUELA said on Sunday he noticed the tube of X-Treme Air Boost with "NOBLE REFLECTION" written on it and "blocked out" and administered it.

I asked VALENZUELA if BALTAS was aware of the X-Treme Air Boost was being given and VALENZUELA replied that BALTAS had told him to give it at 48 hours and 24 hours, but not the day of the race. VALENZUELA said he should have told BALTAS he forgot to give the substance but had a "mental block" and "panicked." VALENZUELA said it was completely his error. I asked VALENZUELA who administers the substance and he said he is the one who stores it and administers it.

I asked VALENZUELA what BALTAS' standing orders are with the X-Treme Air Boost. VALENZUELA said BALTAS will tell him what horses are bleeders need the substance. VALENZUELA said he already knows what horses need it and that there is not really a discussion. I asked VALENZUELA that if the horses were given X-Treme Air Boost on race day if that would be a mistake and he said it would be. VALENZUELA said the normal protocol is to give the X-Treme Air boost 24 hours prior to racing. I asked VALENZUELA if BALTAS would be notified if the substance was given on race day and he said no. I asked VALENZUELA if BALTAS was aware of all the horses that received the substance and he said no.

I contacted BALTAS later in the day and tried to interview him. BALTAS referred me to his attorney, DARRELL VIENNA. I then contacted VIENNA and an interview with he and BALTAS was arranged on 5/14/2022 via Microsoft Teams.

On 5/14/2022 an interview was conducted and recorded on Microsoft Teams with the knowledge and permission of VIENNA. Prior to that interview beginning, VIENNA told me he was going to advise and limit BALTAS' answers and keep them strictly to information about the X-Treme Air Boost. I started out by asking BALTAS to tell me what he knew about the substance. BALTAS said the X-Treme Air Boost is a herbal supplement that he found out about in the Santa Anita Condition Book. BALTAS said he ordered it for bleeder horses. VIENNA then told me the ingredients listed by the manufacturer. I asked BALTAS about the purchasing of the X-Treme Air Boost. BALTAS said he ordered it through the Tack Shop and had it delivered to his barn at Santa Anita. For information, this interview was extremely limited, but VIENNA did advise me he would they would be open for a more detailed second interview once he had conversations with CHRB Administration about the situation.



# STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD CHRB INVESTIGATION REPORT CHRB-209 (REV. 10/3019)

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22SA0	092

FILE TITLE

On 5/28/2022 that second interview took place on Microsoft Teams with BALTAS and VIENNA. It was again recorded with the knowledge and permission of VIENNA. The following is a summary of that interview.

VIENNA began the interview by saying there were two substances that were at issue, the X-Treme Air Boost and Calm and Cool, with the X-Treme Air boost being administered substantially more. I asked BALTAS first about the X-Treme Air Boost and when and how much was supposed to be administered by his employees. BALTAS said one tube was supposed to be administered four hours out from racing. I asked BALTAS if he was aware that was a rule violation and he said he now is. I asked BALTAS if the administration was based on his orders. BALTAS responded by saying "I got sloppy and had too many horses." BALTAS later added that he only used that substance on horses that bled, that he was trying to help them, and they made a mistake.

I asked BALTAS how he came across the substance. BALTAS said he likes to use herbal supplements on his horses and he believes in them because they are natural. BALTAS said he came across the X-Treme Air Boost in the condition book and spoke to the Tack Shop in New York and was told the substance was not harmful or performance enhancing and was just herbal supplements.

I asked BALTAS about the 24 hour rule, and he said he was not aware it was exactly 24 hours and thought it was just the day of the race itself. I asked BALTAS if he thought giving the substance on race day was a violation and he said he did not and mentioned it being a natural substance. BALTAS said he now knows he violated the rule. I then asked about the Calm and Cool and it being administered. BALTAS said that is just used to calm some of the horses down. I asked BALTAS how long he has been using these substances and he said months. I asked prior to February of this year, and he said he did not believe that long. BALTAS later added that Cool and Calm may have been used longer than that. For information, during the interview BALTAS did say he got caught and he violated the rules and was willing to pay the consequences.

On 6/16/2022 I received the results on the used vial of X-Treme Air Boost that Investigator GARRIDO sent to be analyzed by the Maddy Lab. The final report listed two substances found in X-Treme Air Boost. Those substances are Higenamine and Paeonol. Of all the horses seen on video being administered the X-Treme Air Boost, eight horses still have blood or urine available to be tested. Further testing is pending.

In the current case BALTAS is in violation of 23 counts of CHRB rule 1843.5 – substances may not be entered into a horse once the horse has been entered into a race, 23 counts of CHRB rule 1887(a) – trainer to insure condition of the horse, and one count of CHRB rule 1902 – conduct detrimental to horse racing.

End of report.

DATE	NAME OF HORSE		
Sunday, May 8, 2022	BRIX		
Sunday, Way 6, 2022	NOBLE REFLECTION		
	SAI CON		
	CRYPTO MUNNY		
	STERLING CREST		
Saturday, May 7, 2022	LUCKY GIRL		
Satulday, May 7, 2022	ADELIE		
	CARROLL GIRL		
	SPEEDCUBER		
	GEM MINE		
Friday, May 6, 2022	GRANOLA GIRL		
.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	VIA EGNATIA		
Sunday, May 1, 2022	TMORROWISLONGTIME		
Juliusy, may 2, 2022	MENDHAM HILL		
	GALLOVIE		
Saturday, April 30, 2022	PARCO		
Jataraby, April 30, 2022	MASTEROFFOXHOUNDS		
	MORAWETH		
	BALLADEER		
Sunday, April 17, 2022	THE GINGER QUEEN		
	THRUMPS DREAM		
Saturday, April 16, 2022	HENLEY'S JOY		
Friday, April 15, 2022	BICAMERAL		

RACE #	TIME OF TREATMENT	PLACING IN RACE
4	11:01 AM	7th
10		SCRATCHED
1	8:55 AM	2nd
1	8:53 AM	5th
5	10:05 AM	2nd
5	10:04 AM	5th
7	12:18 PM	5th
7	1:03 PM	3rd
7	12:35 PM	11th
9	1:43 PM	3rd
1	9:27 AM	3rd
3	10:29 AM	2nd
5	11:09 AM	2nd
7	12:20 PM	8th
3	9:54 AM	1st
8	12:59 PM	5th
11	3:38 PM	2nd
12	3:14 PM	9th
4	10:47 AM	3rd
5	11:54 AM	8th
7	12:02 PM	1st
9	2:10 PM	3rd
1	10:51 AM	1st

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

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SANTA BARBARA . SANTA CRUZ

CALIFORNIA ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY LABORATORY SYSTEM P.O. BOX 1770 DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95617

PHONE: (530) 752-8700 FAX: (530) 752-6253

June 15, 2022

J. Garrido, Investigator Santa Anita Park - CHRB 285 W. Huntington Drive Arcadia, CA 91066

> Case Number: 22SA0092 Date Collected: 05/08/22 Date Received: 05/10/22

Tracking Number: 8107 8662 9209

#### FINAL REPORT

The contents of the submitted sample(s) detailed below were analyzed for the presence of prohibited substances. A portion of the contents was analyzed by Gas Chromatography - Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) and Liquid Chromatography - Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS).

#### Summary of analytical testing results:

Exhibit EV0740 Item 1 - Description - 1 - Syringe of X-Treme Air Boost (Used).
 Testing Results: Higenamine and Paeonol were detected.

The submitted evidence will remain in storage at the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory pending disposal.

Sincerely.

Benjamin Moeller, Ph.D., D.A.B.T.

**Assistant Professor** 

K.L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory



## STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD CHRB INVESTIGATION REPORT

CHRB-209 (REV. 10/3019)

Page	1	οf	2		

CASE NUMBER 22SA0092	17 <b>% (</b>
CASETITIE	**************************************

. <b>-3</b> - ·	
DATE	INVESTIGATOR
5/12/2022	Jeanne Garrido
TRACK / LOCATION	OTHER INVESTIGATORS
Santa Anita Park	
REPORT RE	
Trainer Richard Baltas – "NOBI	E REFLECTION" unauthorized medication/treatment on race day

On 5/8/2022, I was notified by Safety Steward George Yniguez that security footage captured the horse "NOBLE REFLECTION" receive an unknown substance from a stable worker prior to racing. The horse was scheduled to run in the 10th race at Santa Anita Park on 5/8/2022. The trainer on record is Trainer Richard Baltas (#232550 - 05/2022).

Safety Steward Yniguez and I went to the surveillance room to view the footage from Baltas' barn. The footage showed an adult male walk up to stall #60 where "NOBLE REFLECTION" stood. The male took a syringe out of the front pocket of his sweatshirt and proceeded to dispense the contents into the horse's mouth. He placed the syringe back into his pocket and walked away from the stall. The male then walked back to the stall with two of the Lasix Team technicians. Safety Steward Yniguez stated he recognized the male in the footage to be Martin Valenzuela (#300419 – 2/28/2025), the assistant trainer for Richard Baltas.

I accompanied Yniguez to the Receiving Barn, where he requested a veterinarian technician to draw a blood sample from the horse. Veterinarian Technician Katie Sullivan, Yniguez, and I arrived at Richard Balta's stable (Barn #116) at approximately 2:00 p.m. I was met by two Santa Anita Park security guards who advised they had seen Valenzuela leave the barn area as they were arriving. I called Valenzuela via telephone and asked him to come back to the barn. While waiting for Valenzuela, both Yniguez and I searched the area near the stall for any evidence. Inside an empty feed bag tied to the side of the horse's stall I located a used syringe of X-Treme Air Boost Paste by Winners Equine Products with the name "NOBLE REFLECTION" written on it in black marker. I took the syringe as evidence, which I later sent it out to be tested (See attached paperwork).

Valenzuela arrived at the barn shortly after, and initially told me he did not administer anything to the horse. After I told him we have surveillance footage he then admitted to giving the horse a treatment. He told me the treatment contained the Chinese herb Yunnan Baiyao and was used to help the horse because it "bleeds." He told me the treatment is supposed to help prevent the horse from bleeding on race day and is not a performance enhancer. He confirmed the treatment was a syringe of X-Treme Air Boost Paste, and that he discarded it in the feed bag next to the stall.

INVESTIGATOR'S NAME		APPROVED BY (SUPERVISING INVESTIGATOR'S NAME)	
Jeanne Garrido		Mike Barker	
INVESTIGATOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE 5 MVV	APPROVAL SIGNATURE	DATE 5/14/22



### STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD CHRB INVESTIGATION REPORT

CHRB-209 (REV. 10/3019)

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FILE TITLE

Page 2 of 2

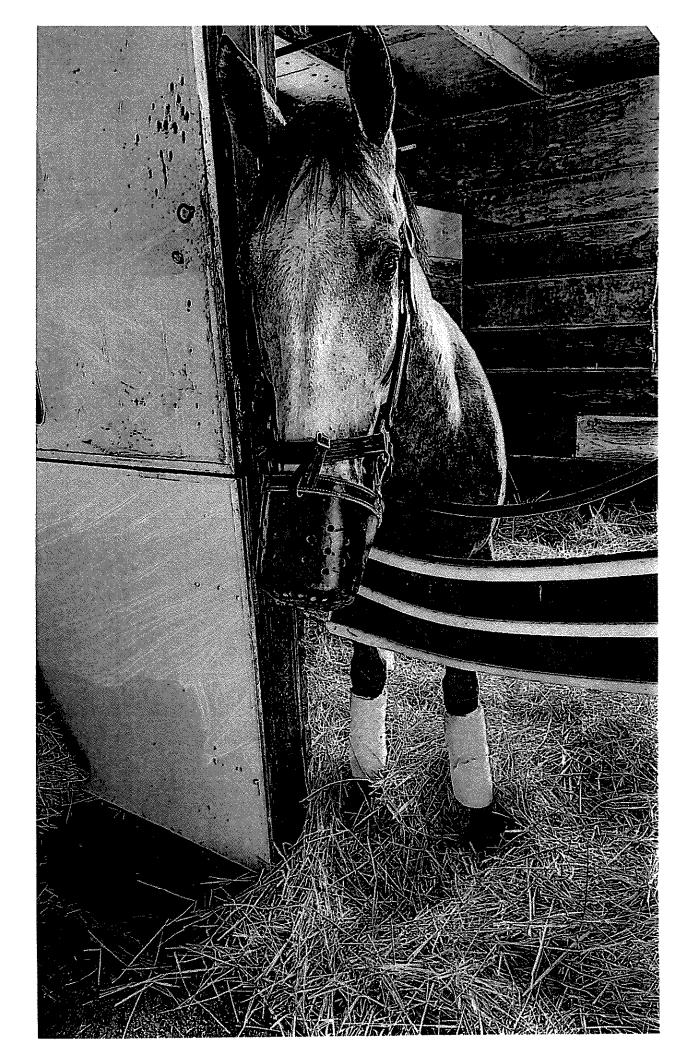
Valenzuela said "NOBLE REFLECTION" is usually given the treatment at 48 hours and 24 hours prior to racing. He had forgotten to give the horse the treatment at the 24-hour mark. Valenzuela confirmed he is aware of race day rules in regard to medication and treatments, but still gave a treatment to the horse because "the horse needed it". Valenzuela said he was not instructed to administer the treatment on race day. Valenzuela advised the product is advertised in the Santa Anta Park Condition book, and the barn purchases it for their horses along with other products from the manufacturer's website (www.winnersequine.com). When asked why he didn't inform the Lasix Team he just administered a treatment when they arrived at his barn, he replied "I just forgot."

Valenzuela told me he stores the X-Treme Air Boost Paste in their tack room. When Safety Steward Yniguez and I searched the tack room, we only located one other syringe of the X-Treme Air Boost Paste. Valenzuela also showed us other supplements at the barn which also contain the herb Yunnan Baiyao (see attached photos). I took photos the barns medication treatment logs (See attached photos). Valenzuela provided no further information.

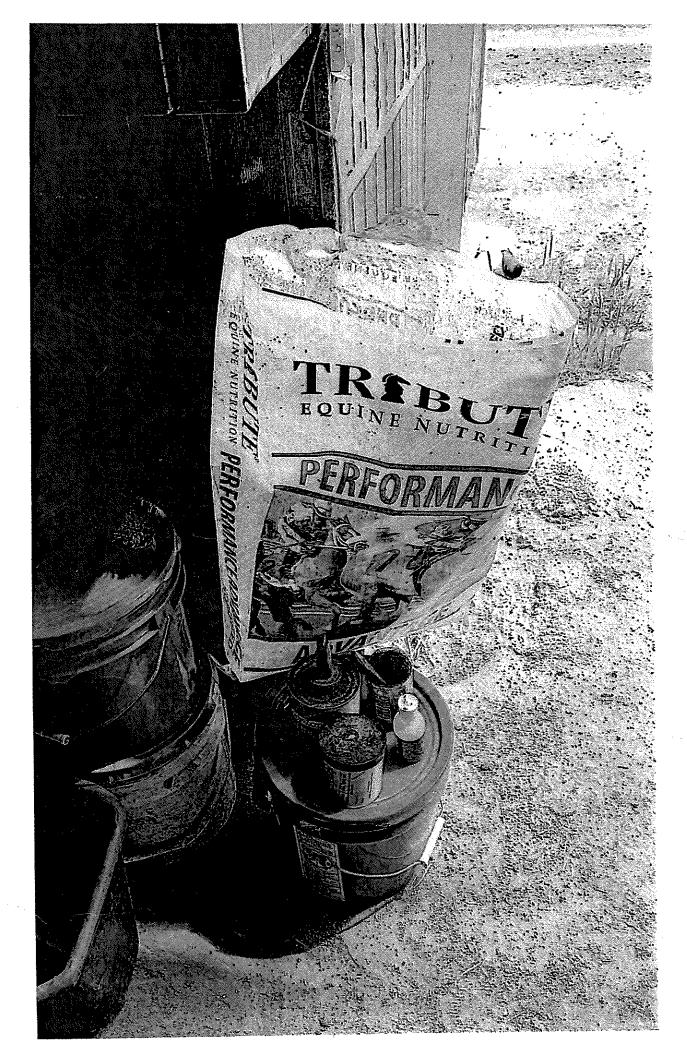
I spoke to Trainer Richard Baltas via telephone. Baltas told me Valenzuela "screwed up and made a big mistake" and that he did not instruct Valenzuela to give anything to "NOBLE REFLECTION" on race day. Baltas said the X-Treme Air Boost Paste is a product they administer to their horses 3-4 days before race day, but not on the actual day of racing. He advised the substance is all natural and is advertised in the condition book. Baltas had no further information to provide.

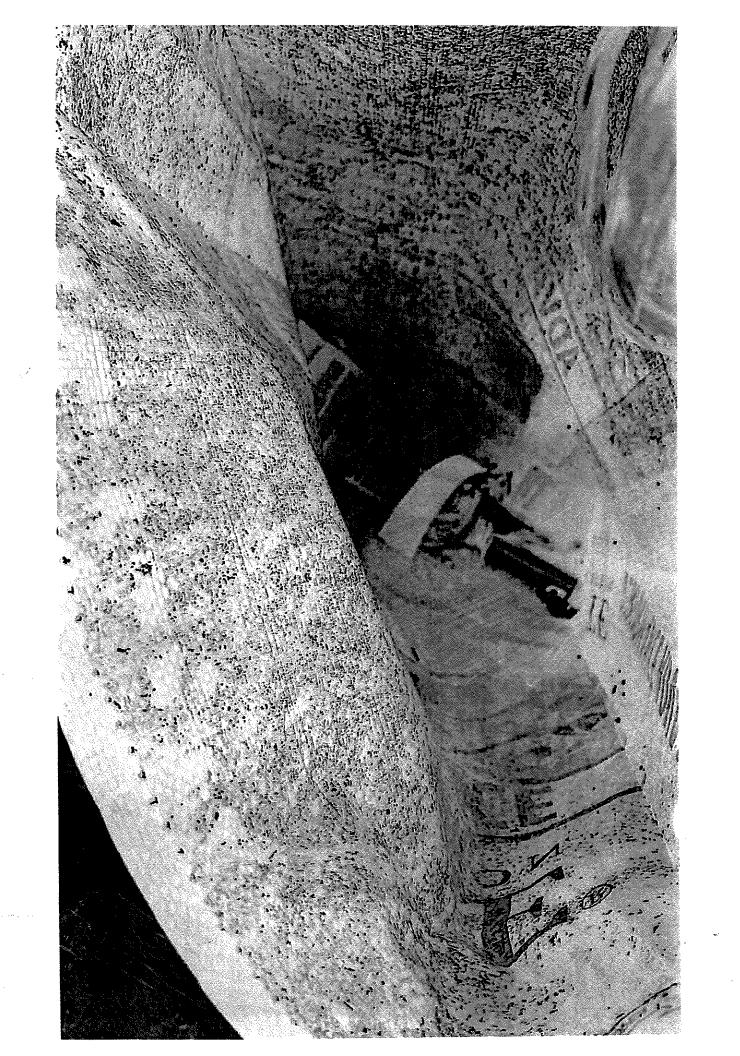
I sealed the used syringe of X-Treme Air Boost Paste into an evidence bag (#EV0740) and completed the CHRB Receipt for Property (CHRB-207), and CHRB Report of Equine Drug Evidence Collected (CHRB-207) forms. On 5/8/2022, I submitted the evidence and forms to Evidence Custodian Sergio Chavez at the Receiving Barn to send to the Kenneth L. Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis for analysis.

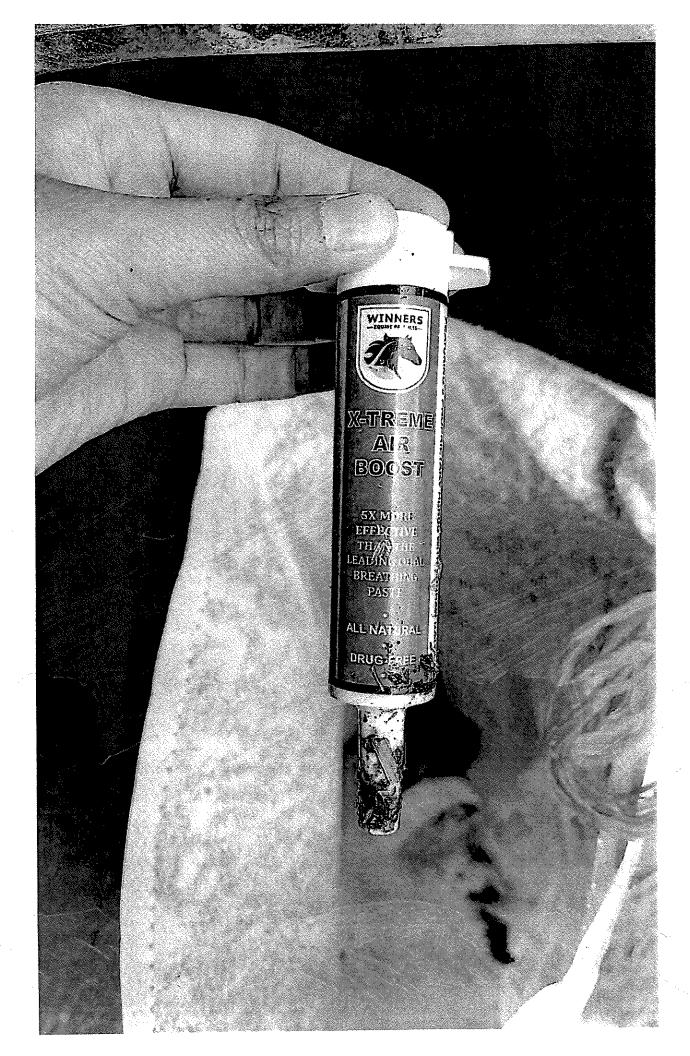
End of report.

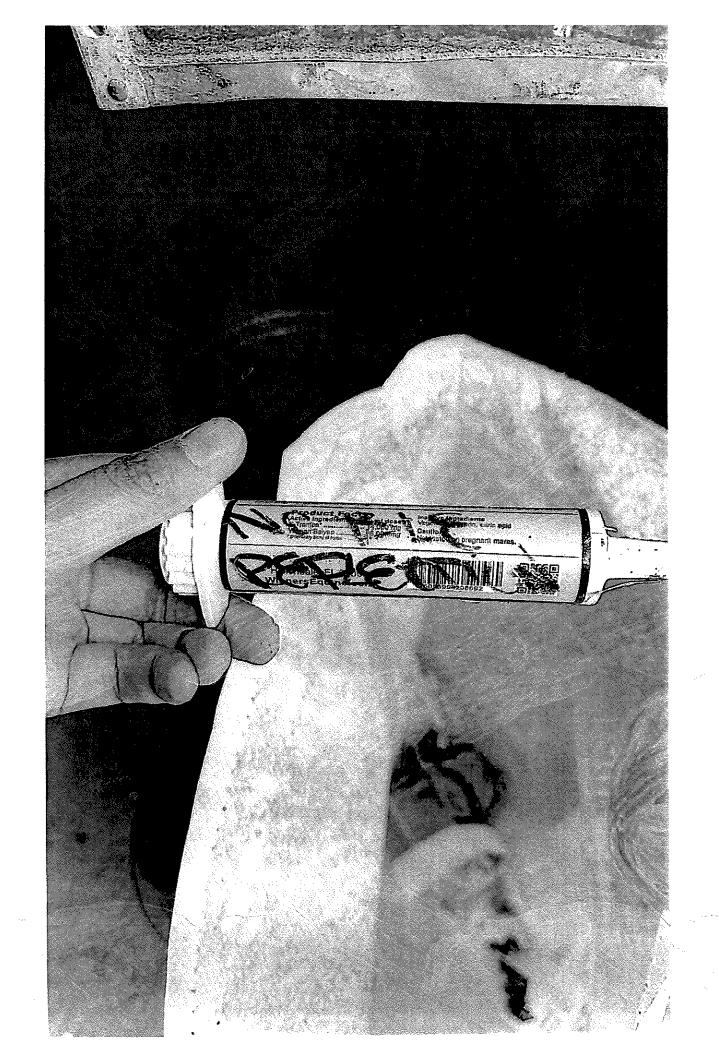


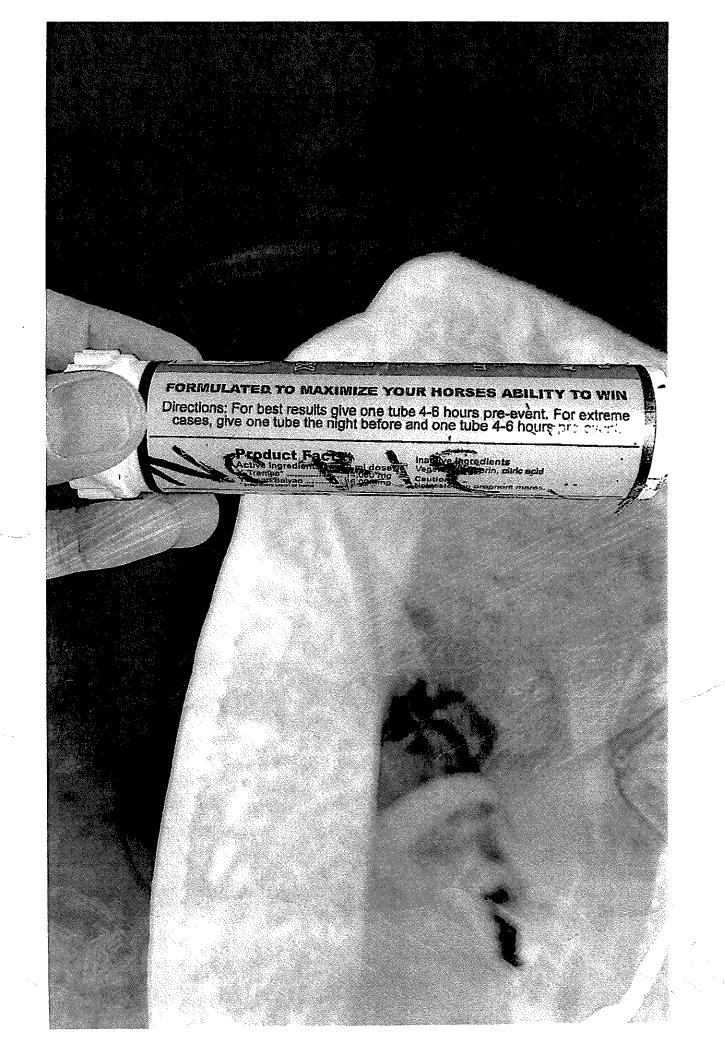




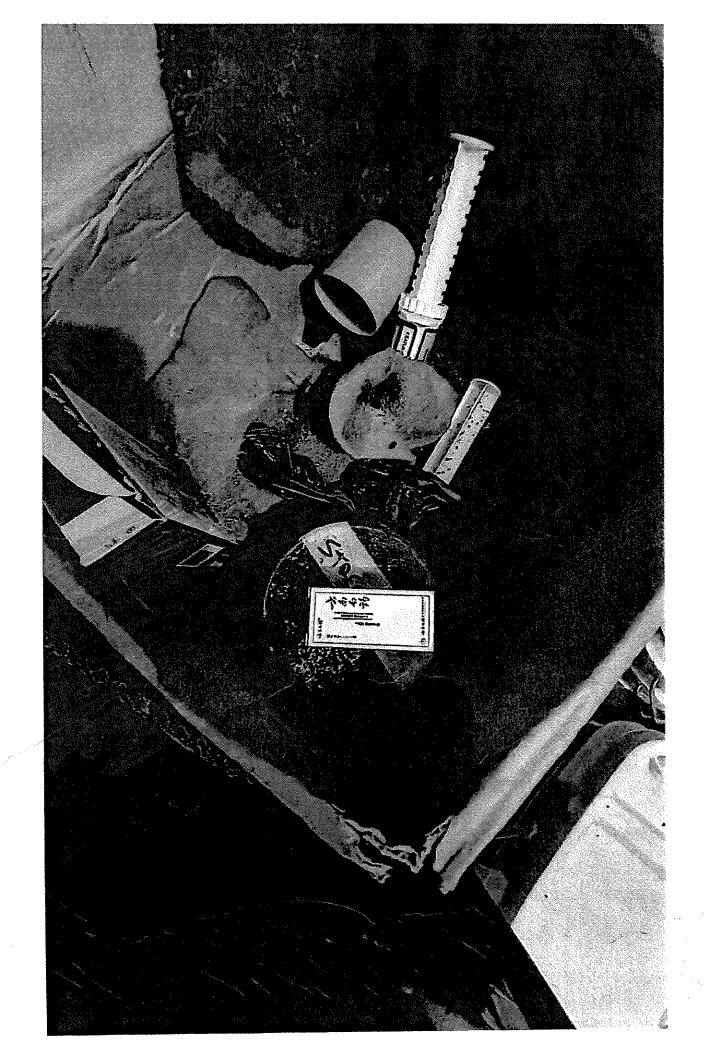


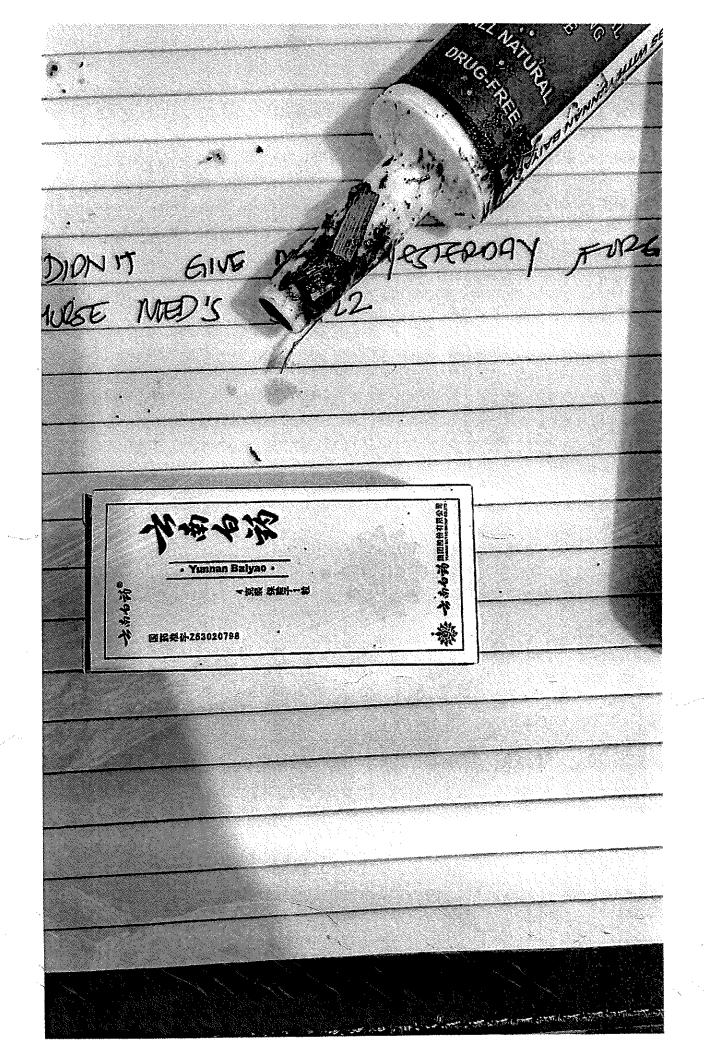


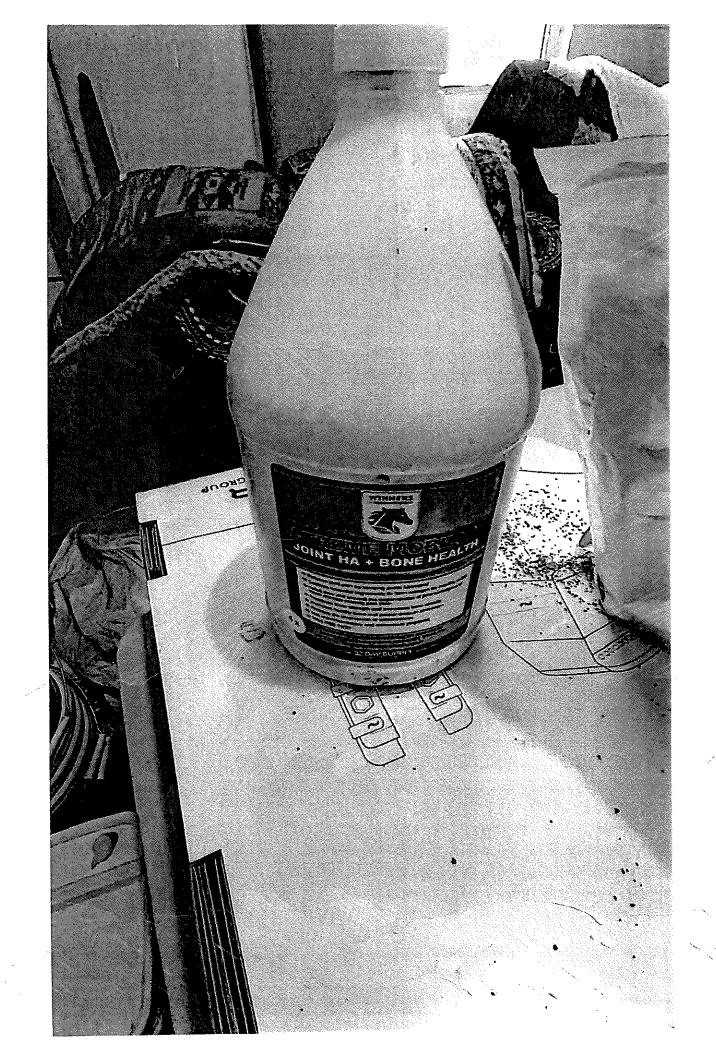












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## **WINNERS** —EQUINE PRODUCTS—



**BLEEDER? COUGHING? MUCUS? ALLERGIES?** RESPIRATORY **ISSUES?** 

WINNERS EQUINE X-TREME HERBAL SUPPLEMENT SYSTEM IS MEDICALLY PROVEN TO CONTROL BLEEDING AND IMPROVE RESPIRATORY HEALTH IN HORSES.

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X-TREME AIR **3 DAY PRE-EVENT** TREATMENT



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**WINNERS** RELIEF GEL



X-TREME **CALM RESPONSE** 

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# RECEIPT FOR PROPERTY CHRB – 207 (New 09/07)

TO: (Name, Title, Address, Zi	p Code)	<u>Case No.:</u> 22SA0092
Sergio Chavez / Evidence Cus	t <b>odian</b>	Case Title: Seized Evidence
		<u>Date:</u> 5/8/2022
Location: Santa Anita Race	Track	
I acknowledge receipt o	f the following item(s), rece	ived into my custody from the above named individual.
AMOUNT/ QUANTITY		DESCRIPTION of ITEM(S)
1	Dose Syringe - brown substan	ce # EV0740
RECEIVED BY (Signature)		NAME AND TITLE: Sergio Chavez, Evidence Custodian
WITNESSED BY (Signature	;)	NAME AND TITLE: J. Garrido, Investigator

## RECEIPT FOR PROPERTY

CHRB - 207 (New 09/07)

TO: (Name, Title, Address, Zip Code)	<u>Case No.:</u> 22SA0092
Sergio Chavez / Evidence Custodian	Case Title: Seized Evidence
	<u>Date:</u> 5/8/2022
Location: Santa Anita Race Track	

I acknowledge receipt of the following item(s), received into my custody from the above named individual.

AMOUNT/ QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION of ITEM(S)
1	Dose Syringe - brown substance # EV0740
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RECEIVED BY (Signature)	NAME AND TITLE: Sergio Chavez, Evidence Custodian
WITNESSED BY (Signature)	NAME AND TITLE: J. Garrido, Investigator
7	



TRACK WHERE OBTAINED

116 / 60 - Trainer Richard Baltas

PURCHASE

IF REFERRED, NAME OF REFERRING AGENCY

☑ UCD KENNETH L. MADDY LABORATORY

DATE

5/8/2022

Santa Anita BARN / STALL

HOW OBTAINED

REMARKS

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD REPORT OF EQUINE DRUG EVIDENCE COLLECTED, PURCHASED OR SEIZED

INVESTIGATOR

TRACK ADDRESS

LICENSEE / LICENSE NUMBER

285 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007

Richard Baltas. CHRB LIC.# 232550 - 5/31/2022

J. Garrido

**SEIZURE** 

Evidence seized from barn #116 stall 60 during inspection.

CHRB-208 (REV. 7/2008)

IINE DRUG EVIDENCE RCHASED OR SEIZED	CASE NUMBER 22SA0092
	FILE TITLE
	SEIZED Evidence
TOR	DATE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY
	5/8/2022 2:00 P.M.
DRESS	
intington Drive, Arcadia, CA 91007	·
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#### **WEIGHT IN GROSS GRAMS** EXHIBIT DRUG DESCRIPTION NUMBER SEIZED SUBMITTED RETAINED X EV0740 1 - Syringe of X-Treme Air Boost (Used)

OTHER

SUBMITTED BY (INVESTIGATOR'S NAME) APPROVED BY (SUPERVISING INVESTIGATOR'S NAME) K. Kitashima Jeanne Garrido SIGNATURE DATE DATE SIGNATURE 5/8/2022 5/8/2022 FAX NUMBER TELEPHONE NUMBER 626-821-1517 916-842-8860

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