



State of Indiana Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Michael R. Pence, Governor

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Trial Court Affirms Indiana Sanctions Against Trainer for Neglect, Mistreatment of Horse

The Miami County Trial Court in February affirmed the Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC) 6 ½-year suspension of an Indiana horse trainer who neglected a horse in 2011.

The IHRC found that the trainer, Janey Adams, failed to provide adequate food to a horse in her care. Adams appealed the order but the Miami County Trial Court affirmed the IHRC's decision. Ms. Adams has not appealed the trial court's decision to the Indiana Court of Appeals, making the decision of the trial court final.

The Commission began investigating Ms. Adams in the summer of 2011 when a horse owner complained to Commission Staff about a horse he had left in her care.

The horse, Tony Terrific, was estimated to have lost at least 300 pounds during the three months Ms. Adams was tasked with his care. Judge Timothy Spahr's order stated: "...Tony was in a 'deplorable condition,' severely emaciated, and suffering from chronic malnutrition. While typically weighing between 1,100 and 1,200 pounds, at the time he was delivered to the [Kentucky Equine Humane Center], Tony weighed approximately 800 pounds, with a Body Condition Score of 1.5 (1 is the lowest score and 9 is the highest). Tony also had a number of infected wounds on his head that had been present for more than a week and had not been properly treated."

Spahr's order continued: "Significantly, the Administrative Law Judge and the IHRC repeatedly found that substantial and reliable evidence supported conclusions that Tony's conditions were caused by not being cared for properly, were not caused by underlying medical issues, and the IHRC Staff not only met, but exceeded, its burden of proof as to the claims against Adams."

The trial court further noted that Ms. Adams' suspension was appropriate given the way she had treated Tony Terrific. "Adams's suspension (which totals approximately 6 ½ years) was in the public interest to maintain proper control over horse racing meetings and pari-mutuel wagering in Indiana and was also proportional in light of other punishments imposed on persons who neglected horses and in light of the gravity of her conduct," Judge Spahr wrote.

IHRC Executive Director Joe Gorajec said he is pleased that the trial court affirmed the Commission's suspension of Ms. Adams. "This agency is responsible for protecting the equine athletes that make this sport possible. All trainers who are licensed by the Commission must understand that neglect and abuse of any horse in their care is simply unacceptable and will not be tolerated."

Ms. Adams' suspension began in 2011 and will run through December 14, 2017.