

PRESS RELEASE

Four racehorses have tested positive for doping during the Oslo Grand Prix race

Four horses trained by Fabrice Souloy have tested positive for prohibited substances in samples taken during races in Norway and Sweden. The horses will be barred from competing and the coach will be suspended while the case is under investigation. In addition, adjustments will be made to the prize money totaling 2.66 million NOK.

The trotters **Your Highness**, **Un Mec d'Heripre** and **Lionel** have presented positive A-samples after participation in the Oslo Grand Prix on 12th of June 2016. **Timone Ek** presented a positive A-sample after the victory in Bjerkebanen's Europe Match on 12th of June 2016. Un Mec d'Heripre has also submitted a positive A-sample both on 28th of May 2016 at the pre-race testing before Elitloppet and on 29th of May after Elitloppet. All B-samples are sent to another laboratory for verification. Lionel has presented both positive A and B samples. Analyses of the samples display findings of cobalt far exceeding the threshold levels in blood and urine for all horses.

The Norwegian Trotting Association has analyzed a large number of samples for cobalt from the days before and during the race day on June 12th. After it was found that the A-sample from Lionel was positive for cobalt, several samples from this race day was sent for analysis specifically for cobalt, including all the participating horses in Oslo Grand Prix. The Swedish Trotting Association decided to investigate the stored samples from all placed horses in Elitloppet on the 29th of May 2016 for cobalt after the positive test in Norway.

Blood samples from Un Mec d'Heripre taken on the day before Elitloppet and on race day May 29th both contained amounts of cobalt far exceeding threshold. All of the other prize-winning horses in Elitloppet were negative.

Facts about cobalt

Cobalt is a trace element which is naturally occurring in the body and which in small amounts is also present in horse feed (micro mineral), as well as in food supplements and medicines for horses. Because cobalt is a substance which exists naturally in the body in small amounts, it has been developed an international threshold limit that will not be exceeded during normal feeding, feed supplement or vitamin injections. Cobalt is known from human sport as a blood doping method to increase aerobic capacity (endurance and strength). [Read more about Cobalt here.](#)

Thursday evening representatives from Swedish Trotting Association and the Norwegian Trotting Association visited Fabrice Souloy's farm in Haras de Ginai in France to inform Souloy about the positive samples and investigate the case.

Intensification of the anti-doping work and close cooperation across borders

The Nordic countries have in recent years intensified efforts to combat doping, and storage of frozen has given us a better opportunity to pursue breach of doping regulations. It is very sad for the sport that such serious violations occur, yet extremely important that it reveals. It also shows that our anti-doping work is effective and highlights the benefits of a strong Nordic cooperation in this field.

In addition to the many doping tests taken after races, several so-called training samples or pre-race tests have also been taken, this is tests taken during training periods between races, or close up to a race. This was also done before Elitloppet and Oslo Grand Prix. All of the other samples analyzed in connection with these races were negative for cobalt.

If the B-samples confirm the result of the A-sample, in addition to Lionel, Un Mec d`Heripre, Your Highness and Timone Ek will be deprived of their placements and prizes, and the prize payout will be adjusted for the races in question.

The case will be handled by the Scandinavian doping committee on the basis of the tests and assessment report.

The horses that have tested positive will be barred from competing and Fabrice Souloy will be suspended while investigation in the case is ongoing.

Contacts regarding the case:

Svein Morten Buer, Chairman of the Norwegian Trotting Association - +47 900 35 395
Anne V. Wangen, the Norwegian Trotting Association, head of horse welfare - +47 905 57 115
Birgit Ranheim, head of horse sports committee for investigation of doping cases (UUD) - +47 928 83 452

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The Norwegian Trotting Association

Postadresse: Postboks 194, Økern
0510 Oslo, Norge
Vareadresse: Hestesportens Hus
Trondheimsveien 273, 0589 Oslo

Telefon 22 95 60 00
E-post: firmapost.dnt@travsport.no
Telefaks: 22 95 60 60
Internett: www.travsport.no

Bankgiro: 8200.01.81303

Foretaksnr.: NO 957 524 524 MVA