



**TEXAS RACING COMMISSION**

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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DATE: July 16, 2009

GRAND PRAIRIE: Following a July 9<sup>th</sup> Stewards' hearing, the Stewards at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie issued a ruling to Steve Asmussen for a drug positive violation. Laboratory results on the Asmussen-trained horse, Timber Trick, the winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> race at Lone Star Park on May 10, 2008, tested positive for hydroxylidocaine. Hydroxylidocaine is a metabolite of lidocaine.

The Stewards suspended Mr. Asmussen for six months, starting on July 20, 2009, through January 15, 2010, assessed a \$1,500 fine, and disqualified the horse, Timber Trick, and declared the horse unplaced in the third race at Lone Star Park on March 19, 2008.

Under Texas Racing Commission Rule 307.67(b), a person may file an appeal from a Stewards' ruling no later than 5 p.m. of the third day after the day the person is officially informed of the ruling.

Upon notification of the ruling, Mr. Asmussen filed an appeal, paid the fine, and requested a stay of the suspension. Charla Ann King, Executive Director of the Racing Commission, granted a stay of the suspension, pending the outcome of the appeal.

The Commission refers all appeals from Stewards' rulings to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for adjudication. SOAH schedules and conducts hearings for various state agencies, including the Racing Commission. Following the SOAH hearing, the administrative law judge prepares a Proposal for Decision (PFD) for presentation to the Commission. After reviewing the PFD, the Commission may affirm, reverse, or modify the stewards' decision.