



Dr. Leung Siu Fai, JP
Director of Agriculture
Fisheries and Conservation Department

Andrew Harding
Executive Director, Racing
Hong Kong Jockey Club

William Nader
Director of Racing, Business and Operations
Hong Kong Jockey Club

Via E-mail

Re: Request for an investigation into the death of five-year gelding,
Voyage King

November 27, 2019

Dear Mr. Harding and Mr. Nader:

In the wake of the gruesome breakdown of Australian-bred Voyage King on November 20, 2019 in Race #3 at the Happy Valley Racecourse, we formally request you conduct an investigation into this fatality. Please see the attached video. The spectator who alerted us about this death contacted the Hong Kong Jockey Club and received a response from Customer Care at the HKJC describing the injury as:

“...fractured bones within his front fetlock joint which were irreparable.”

Voyage King had been diagnosed in May 2019 as: **“Lame left front leg on the day after racing. Update: Osteoarthritis in both front fetlocks.”** This was a critical warning sign—an indication that the horse should have been retired. Additionally, in the 15 races prior to this catastrophic final race, Voyage King had finished no better than fifth, and he had **“substantial blood in trachea after racing”** in September. It’s alarming that HKJC veterinarians and stewards permitted this horse to race in this condition. Either the pre-race examination protocols at the HKJC tracks are grossly insufficient or human error is to blame and the parties responsible must be held accountable.

Hong Kong racing was once considered the model in terms of veterinary records transparency and comprehensive measures to prevent incidents like this; however, the hideous death of Voyage King demonstrates that the system has serious flaws that need to be remedied immediately.

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We also strongly urge the HKJC to install high-resolution, standing CT scanning equipment to be used as a preventive mechanism in pre-race screening which would detect damage and flag high-risk horses such as Voyage King.

Please keep us informed about how you are going to address this situation.

Best,

Jason Baker
PETA Asia Senior Vice President, International Operations

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