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CHRB NEWS RELEASE

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WEEKLY UPDATE

SACRAMENTO, CA – This is the California Horse Racing Board’s weekly update of complaints, accusations, stewards rulings, and Board decisions involving Class 1, 2, and 3 medication violations and other significant matters.

The stewards at Golden Gate Fields issued a \$5,000 fine and suspended owner/trainer Alberto Arreola for 180 days for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (d) and 1887 after the Ken Maddy Laboratory at UC Davis reported the sample collected from a horse in his care, La Gacela, contained hydromorphone, a prohibited Class 1 substance. Industrial Laboratories confirmed the presence of hydromorphone in the split sample. Hydromorphone is a semi-synthetic narcotic analgesic sold as Dilaudid. There is no legitimate, recognized use for the drug in the horse. La Gacela finished third in the eighth race at Cal Expo on August 27, 2008. The stewards also disqualified La Gacela and ordered the redistribution of the purse. Arreola’s suspension begins January 25.

The CHRB filed three complaints against owner/trainer Matias Ruiz for violation of CHRB Rules 1843 (a) (d) and 1887 after the Maddy Laboratory reported the samples collected from three horses in his care contained heptaminol, a prohibited Class 3 substance. Ruiz declined split-sample analysis. Heptaminol is a myocardial stimulant and an anti-hypotensive drug. All three violations occurred at the Cal Expo harness meet in Sacramento: Avid Sportsman finished first in the 14th race on December 19; Bob Lee finished fourth in the 9th race on December 27; Sandra Hotspur finished sixth in the 10th race on December 27. The stewards at Cal Expo have scheduled a hearing for February 25.

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