



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Brian Kruger
Chair
Racing Victoria

4 November 2020

Sent via e-mail

Australia

PO Box 20308
World Square
Sydney NSW 2002

08 8556 5828

PETA.org.au

Re Catastrophic Breakdown of Anthony Van Dyck in Melbourne Cup

Dear Mr Kruger:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Australia – an affiliate of PETA US, the world's largest animal rights organisation, with more than 6.5 million members and supports worldwide. I'm writing to request that the fatality report of horse Anthony Van Dyck being prepared by the Racing Victoria Integrity Services team, including the full results of the necropsy conducted by the University of Melbourne Veterinary Clinic & Hospital, be released to the public.

The investigation should include all relevant information about injuries, treatments, and medications administered to Anthony Van Dyck prior to his catastrophic breakdown in the Melbourne Cup on 2 November. Lasix (furosemide) was administered to this Thoroughbred in the Breeders' Cup Turf at Santa Anita Park in California last year. This drug is illegal on race day in Australia (and everywhere else except in North America) and is a controversial and powerful diuretic that's debilitating to horses. Anthony Van Dyck's trainer chose to use it anyway, which raises concerns about what medications may have been administered before the Melbourne Cup.

Can you also please explain why Racing Victoria chose not to conduct CT imaging for all horses before the Cup, as was done last year? According to reports, imaging was done this year only if horses were suspected to have injuries. Was Anthony Van Dyck scanned? As you likely know, CT imaging can reveal lesions that may make horses vulnerable to breakdown before the animals exhibit symptoms. Studies show that 90% of bone breaks occur at the site of a pre-existing injury. Necropsy results will reveal whether or not Anthony Van Dyck had a pre-existing condition. In any case, we urge you to use CT imaging in the future.

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Emily Rice
PETA Australia

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)