The Full Board of Directors of the National Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Sunday, the sixteenth day of July, 2006, unanimously adopted the following position statement:

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In January, the trainer of BRASS HAT, Mr. William “Buff” Bradley, and the owner, Senator Fred Bradley, were invited to nominate BRASS HAT for the 2006 Dubai World Cup by a Kentucky representative of the Emirates Racing Authority, whose nomination was soon accepted.

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Because the published “Dubai Equine Hospital Medication Withdrawals” specifically recognize “routine intra-articular injections” and require that they be performed “before shipping”, the Bradleys elected to treat BRASS HAT with said “routine intra-articular injections” of methylprednisolone, which were administered as indicated by a licensed veterinarian, “intra-articularly”, in therapeutic amounts, a full 28 days before the March 25th 2006 Dubai World Cup, which to the Bradleys’ credit represented a full 5 days in excess of the stipulated 23-day withdrawal time, thereby conservatively exceeding the 23-day figure set forth in the “Dubai Equine Hospital Medication Withdrawals”, which clearly stipulated that the “guidelines have, through experience, shown to be safe withdrawals in the UAE”.

In the “Dubai Equine Hospital Medication Withdrawals”, the 23-day time for “Methyl Prednisolone(sic) Acetate I.A.” is specifically listed as “OK”, with no caveats whatsoever. Given that this lack of caveats in the “Dubai Equine Hospital Medication Withdrawals” and the confident statements in the document that the “guidelines have, through experience, shown to be safe withdrawals in the UAE”, and the 23-day time for “Methyl Prednisolone(sic) Acetate I.A.” is specifically listed as “OK”, without any qualification whatsoever, would suggest to reasonable and prudent horsemen such as the Bradleys, and indeed to any horseman, that the “Withdrawals” document provided by the ERA could be relied upon.

The Bradleys, in ongoing discussions with other horsemen, equine veterinarians, racing professionals and ERA representatives, were never at any time given any indication whatsoever that their treatment of BRASS HAT was anything other than completely within the rules, guidelines, medication policies and practices and analytical capabilities, either as presented or applied by the ERA.

Review of the scientific and regulatory literature from the early 1980s until the
present time shows that methylprednisolone can remain detectable in equine urine for longer periods than 23 days. As such, the statement concerning a 23-day methylprednisolone withdrawal in the “Dubai Equine Hospital MedicationWithdrawals” requires that the sensitivity of testing for methylprednisolone be restricted to permit the Authority to make such a definitive 23-day withdrawal time statement.

Despite the Bradleys scrupulous adherence to the medication guidelines and rules presented to them, BRASS HAT was nonetheless “called positive” for methylprednisolone and disqualified from second place in the 2006 Dubai World Cup, representing the largest monetary disqualification ever in the history of racing. Once again, this disqualification occurred despite the explicit assurances contained in the “Dubai Equine Hospital Medication Withdrawals” that the guidelines “have, through experience, shown to be safe withdrawals in the UAE”.

Therefore, the Full Board of Directors of the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association deem that the punitive actions taken by the Emirates Racing Authority, which include the U.S.$1.2 million loss of purse and in addition the U.S.$5,400.00 fine of the trainer William “Buff” Bradley, despite clear and convincing evidence presented to the ERA indicating that the Bradleys had in fact complied with the ERA’s published racing rules and communicated guidelines, is contrary to the standards and practices observed throughout the international racing industry.

All members of the Board unanimously join to urge the Emirates Racing Authority to reconsider both its position on the BRASS HAT disqualification and its published rules of racing and testing procedures to ensure that ALL horsemen are treated fairly and can rely on a “level playing field” when invited to participate in important racing events such as the Dubai World Cup and;

Be it finally resolved that the Secretary of the National HBPA, Inc. on behalf of
the more than 35,000 members of the National Horsemen’s Benevolent & Protective Association, Inc. be instructed to maintain the original document of this position statement in the official records of the National HBPA, Inc. in perpetuity.

Approved & Confirmed as Adopted:

______________________________
Joe Santanna, President/Chairman
National HBPA, Inc.

______________________________
Susan Bunning, Secretary-Treasurer
National HBPA, Inc.