

Animal Wellness Action Responds to Kentucky Derby Winner's Alleged Positive Test for Illegal Drug

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, USA, May 9, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Medina Spirit, the 2021 Kentucky Derby winner crowned last Saturday and trained by Bob Baffert, has allegedly tested positive for betamethasone, an anti-inflammatory drug that can be used to mask pain according to the [Associated Press](#). In response to the news, Animal Wellness Action's Executive Director Marty Irby released the following [statement](#) today on the Medina Spirit case:



Medina Spirit's trainer Bob Baffert is interviewed at Santa Anita Park April 4, 2009 in Arcadia, CA.

"The latest doping scandal in U.S. horse racing underscores the need for swift implementation of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act that will address inconsistencies in drug testing and create a uniform national standard of rules and regulations in the sport," said Marty Irby, executive director at Animal Wellness Action who was recently honored by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, II for his work to protect horses.

“

American horse racing will be held to a higher standard – there's no excuse for rigging the 'fastest two minutes in sports,' especially at the expense of the horse's well-being.”

*Marty Irby, executive director
at Animal Wellness Action*

“If further investigation finds Medina Spirit legitimately tested positive for illegal drugs at the Kentucky Derby, then racing authorities should throw the book at those found guilty of violating the rules and punish them to the fullest extent of the law. American horse racing will be held to a higher standard – there's no excuse for rigging the 'fastest two minutes in sports,' especially at the expense of the horse's well-being.”

Animal Wellness Action worked diligently in leading the charge in the animal protection space on

the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act that was signed into law in December and banned doping in the sport. But the new law doesn't take effect until 2022. And despite the Kentucky Racing Commission's ban on Lasix that saw this year's Derby entries running Lasix-free, yet another scandal appears to plague the sport.

Animal Wellness Action (Action) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards

forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that's why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

Marty Irby
Animal Wellness Action
+1 202-821-5686

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



AWA executive director Marty Irby testifying at a House hearing on H.R. 1754 in January 2020

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/540677069>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2021 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.