

## **A Veterinarian's Perspective**

My observation of ABC news video footage taken during the running of the 2020 Melbourne Cup shows Anthony Van Dyck suddenly stopping to race at about the 300m mark. He suddenly raises his fore body and left foreleg upwards, characteristic of forelimb injury. It appeared to me that the left forelimb, distal to the fetlock, abnormally flopped upwards indicating a catastrophic injury viz. fracture and / or dislocation of the fetlock joint (metacarpophalangeal joint) at least. The media also reported a women witness wrote "Anthony Van Dyck's leg looked to be hanging off the fetlock". The horse was reported to have been subsequently "loaded into an ambulance at the track and was later euthanised". I have been informed the stallion was euthanised due to bone fracture approximately 20 minutes later at some different location.

It therefore appears Anthony Van Dyck has suffered a catastrophic life threatening skeletal injury resulting in severe pain. If so, the normal humane response would be to euthanise the stallion, there and then, on the track, without inflicting any further pain transporting him to a new location. Portable direct computer radiography and clinical assessment could have quickly and clearly demonstrated the extent of the race induced skeletal injury and prognosis.

In light of the aforementioned it seems Anthony Van Dyck was in all probability "not fit to load" to be transported to another location for euthanasia. I advocate an independent veterinary medical investigation be undertaken to determine the ethical nature of this possible violation of animal welfare.

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