

Re: Mr De Rocha's open letter

Dear Mr de Rocha,

Your open letter dated 18th June 2017 contains severe and unfounded accusations against me, which have caused me much grief and surprise.

I assume that your claims are largely due to misinformation and your accusations the consequence of our lack of acquaintance, given that, as stated by yourself, we have never met.

In any event I feel further clarifications are needed, in particular to highlight the groundlessness of your claims.

1. The horse Eremo del Castegno was never offered for sale, and your trainer and my long-time friend Mr Hubertus Schmidt was fully aware of this. On the occasion of the CDI-W Stuttgart, Mr Schmidt approached me to ask about the possibility of a purchase on your part.
2. I was later contacted again by Mr Schmidt regarding a possible sale, and on both the first and on this occasion I pointed out that the horse suffered from exostoses in both front limbs, which was being managed with Bonefos every three months as well as special shoeing.
3. Mr Schmidt, increasingly interested in the purchase, told me that any evaluation of Eremo's physical condition would be carried out by Dr Patricia Monaco Brossi, a veterinarian appointed by you.
4. Dr Patricia Monaco Brossi carried out a thorough pre-purchase vetting, executing over 80 x-rays, following which she completed a detailed report which confirmed the exostoses in the front limbs and which, as per my requirement, was attached to the sales contract.

5. Dr Patricia Monaco Brossi was informed that the horse was treated with Bonefos every three months, and she asked for an adequate amount of the special shoes used to manage the exostoses to be shipped to Brazil through Mr Schmidt.
6. On the occasion of the afore-mentioned vetting, my own vet Dr Brignolo, who was Eremo del Castegno's regular vet, informed your vet that the anti-doping test you refer to in your letter would not be carried out as the results would only be available after the date agreed for the sale; in any event, Dr Brignolo pointed out to Dr Monaco Brossi that the only medication given to the horse was Bonefos and that Eremo had just come back from the Salzburg international, held two days before, and that, therefore, he had been subjected to all relevant tests, including anti-doping.
7. The correctness of my behaviour throughout the negotiations and the vetting carried out by Dr Patricia Monaco Brossi has been repeatedly observed by Mr Hubertus Schmidt.
8. Mr Schmidt, following the vetting, wrote to me:

"Hi Enzo, I talked to Patricia and she is very positive, specially after showing and traveling the horse was trotting very good, perfect on the circle, but she is waiting for re images".

9. Mr Schmidt wrote on 16th April 2016, i.e. four months following the purchase:

"Hi Enzo,

Jorge is very happy with Eremo. 4 weeks ago we trained at a show and it worked very good. At that time the plan was to show him in May. Hubertus", while our mutual friend Marietta Almasi told me:

"Hi Enzo,

I had Jorge on the phone yesterday

His first cdi is in May

He says that he needs more time to really know better Eremo but he loves him. He is not sure for his motivations for the Olympics???"

To which I replied:

"It is more important that he loves him and having fun, Olympics are less important than that".

10. What was reported by Mr Schmidt and Ms Almasy unequivocally demonstrates that Eremo del Castegno's sole problem was the presence of exostoses in the front limbs, which was pointed out straight away to both Mr Schmidt and Dr Brossi before the sale negotiations even began, and that clearly did not prevent the horse from carrying out his sporting career.
11. Finally, I can confirm that only a few weeks ago I successfully concluded, to mutual satisfaction, the litigation with the FISE regarding the sale of Eremo del Castegno, and your letter almost seems to have been suggested by somebody who was not pleased by the friendly manner in which the controversy was solved.

* * *

I have faith that I have now given you sufficient clarification to allow you to re-evaluate the whole matter and I hope that it is possible for us to meet in the near future, in order to disperse any remaining doubts you expressed towards me. Like you, I have been working for over 40 years to spread the sport of dressage under the banner of passion and correctness.

In the meantime, I wish you can enjoy that exceptional horse that is, as per your own admission, Eremo del Castegno.

Finally, I would like to inform you that, in the same spirit of complete transparency and correctness, I will give this letter the same circulation and visibility that you gave yours.

Best regards,

Enzo Truppa