



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 10 March 2022

Decision-makers: Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch, Director Compliance, Policy & Legal, Matthew Tutt, and Legal Officer, Annalese Summerson-Hingston

Name of relevant person: Mr Rodney Oakman

Track: Wagga Wagga

Date: 17 September 2021

Rule no.: Rule 83(2)(a)

Charge(s): Mr Oakman presented the greyhound 'Tranquil Gypsy' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 8 at the Wagga Wagga meeting on 17 September 2021 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance;

Prohibited Substance(s): Hydrochlorothiazide and morphine.

Disciplinary action taken: 8-week suspension

Charge

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Tranquil Gypsy' ("**Greyhound**") at the Wagga Wagga meeting on 17 September 2021.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of hydrochlorothiazide and morphine.

Evidence, plea and submissions

On 11 February 2022 Mr Oakman was issued with a notice of proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**") and brief of evidence in relation to the charge, setting out the proposed disciplinary action to be taken and the grounds in support of that proposed disciplinary action.

Mr Oakman responded to the Notice, made submissions via email, and entered a plea of guilty.

The decision makers considered all the evidence, including Mr Oakman's submissions and guilty plea and issued the following decision.

DECISION

1. Mr Oakman is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 8 of the Wagga Wagga meeting on 17 September 2021 ("**Event**"). Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of hydrochlorothiazide and morphine. Hydrochlorothiazide is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**"). Morphine is a permanently banned prohibited substance under Rule 79A(2)(v) of the Rules.
3. The decision makers charged Mr Oakman with one offence under Rule 83(2)(a), which reads:

(2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

...

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

4. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Oakman

Charge - (Rule 83(2)(a) 17 September 2021):	To suspend Mr Oakman's registrations for a period of 8 weeks pursuant to section 59(1)(a)(i) of the Act;
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5. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW, including the Commission decision of *Northey* from November 2020, in which a penalty of 7 weeks suspension with 2 weeks conditionally suspended was handed down;
 - The length of time Mr Oakman has held a trainer registration, being since 1975, a period of approximately 47 years;
 - Mr Oakman's disciplinary history – importantly, a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) in 2018 in which cobalt was detected;
 - Mr Oakman's submissions during mitigation, including his explanation of the likely source of the positive result and his personal circumstances;
 - The extremely low level of the substance morphine detected in the sample, which was consistent with the explanation provided of an inadvertent environmental contamination; and
 - Mr Oakman's plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity.

6. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 of the Wagga Wagga meeting on 17 September 2021 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....