



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Tuesday 18 June 2024

Decision-maker: Senior Steward Kevin Adams and Steward Sam Woolaston

Name of relevant person: Victor Ellis

Track: The Gardens

Date: 20 March 2024

Rule no.: 141(1)(a)

Charge(s): Mr Victor Ellis presented the greyhound 'Rock Me Gently' for the purpose of competing in race 1 at The Gardens meeting on 20 March 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Plea: Guilty

Prohibited Substance(s): Dexamethasone

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a suspension of four months, to commence 19 June 2024 and expire Saturday 19 October 2024.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 26 April 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Rock Me Gently" at The Gardens meeting on 20 March 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Dexamethasone in excess of the screening limit of 200 picograms per millilitre.

DECISION:

1. Mr Ellis is a registered Owner Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Rock Me Gently" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 1 at The Gardens meeting on 20 March 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-race swab revealed the presence of Dexamethasone in excess of the screening limit of 200 picograms per millilitre.

3. Dexamethasone in excess of the screening limit of 200 picograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 146(6)(c) of the Rule.
4. On Tuesday 4 June 2024 Mr Ellis was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 4 June 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Ellis with an offence under Rule 141(1)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 141(1), Rules

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

...

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

...

(3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to subrule (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

6. The Notice proposed a penalty of a six-month suspension and invited Mr Ellis to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted on Tuesday 18 June Mr Ellis provided verbal submissions and entered a plea of guilty.
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Ellis' plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Ellis:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a suspension of four months, to commence 19 June 2024 and expire Saturday 19 October 2024.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr. Ellis' record, being licensed for 34 years with one previous prohibited substance penalty within the past five years
 - Personal and professional circumstances
 - GWIC penalty guidelines

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 1 at The Gardens meeting on 20 March 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....