



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Saturday 29 th October 2022
Decision-makers:	Senior Steward Dean Degan and Steward Craig Easey
Name of relevant person:	Mr Ronald Steel
Track:	Gunnedah
Date:	28 July 2022
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Ronald Steel presented the greyhound 'JEANIE CARGO' for the purposes of competing in race 7 at the Gunnedah meeting on 28 July 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Ketoprofen
Disciplinary action taken:	To fine Mr Steel the sum of \$1500 and to suspend Mr Steel's registrations for a period of 8 weeks (which is wholly suspended on the provision he does not re-offend under a prohibited substance matter in the next 12 months)

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 30 August 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'JEANIE CARGO' at the Gunnedah meeting on 28 July 2022.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Ketaprofen.

DECISION:

1. Mr Steel is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 7 of the Gunnedah meeting on 28 July 2022. After the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Ketoprofen.

3. Ketoprofen is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 13 October 2022 Mr Steel was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”) in relation to the charge, setting out the proposed disciplinary action to be taken and the grounds in support of that proposed disciplinary action.
5. In the Notice issued on 13 October 2022 the decision makers charged Mr Steel with the 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 invited Mr Steel to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge and the proposed penalty.
7. On Saturday 22 October and 29 October Mr Steel attended the scheduled hearings with the decision makers and
 - entered a plea of guilty
 - made submissions he was unaware of where the substance had come from, with the possibility of it coming from the cow meat fed to the greyhound.
 - He has changed his meat source and is now feeding the greyhounds kangaroo meat.

8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Steel’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Steel:

Charge 141 (1) (a):

To fine Mr Steel the sum of \$1500 and to suspend Mr Steel’s registrations for a period of 8 weeks (which is wholly suspended on the provision he does not re-offend under a prohibited substance matter in the next 12 months)

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
- The length of time Mr. Steel has held a registration in the greyhound racing industry, being since 2003.
- Mr Steel had not offended under a prohibited substance rule in six years.
- Mr Steel's plea of guilty plea.
 - Other factors considered in mitigation of penalty were:
 - amendments to husbandry practices;

9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 7 at the Gunnedah meeting on 28 July 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....