



**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

<b>Date of decision:</b>	Thursday 27 April
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Senior Steward Dean Degan, Steward Shannon Kearney, Steward Ken Storck
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Mark Small
<b>Track:</b>	Casino
<b>Date:</b>	31 January 2023
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Mark Small presented the greyhound 'Carramar Drive' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 4 at the Casino meeting on 31 January 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Meloxicam
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	Four-and-a-half-month suspension, commencing April 27th and expiring September 14th.

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 16 March 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Carramar Drive' at the Casino meeting on 31 January 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the New Zealand Racing Laboratory Services confirming the presence of Meloxicam.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Small is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of 'Carramar Drive' ("Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 4 of the Casino meeting on 31 January 2023. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Meloxicam in excess of the screening limit of 2 nanograms per millilitre.

3. Meloxicam in excess of the screening limit of 2 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 146(6)(f) of the Rules,
4. On Tuesday 18 April 2023 Mr Small was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 18 April 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Small 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 Small to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted at the Casino Greyhound Track on Thursday 27 April 2023, Mr Small:

(a) entered a plea of guilty and;

(b) made verbal submissions.

8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Small'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 Small:

To issue a four-and-a-half-month suspension

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Small's guilty plea (25% reduction);
  - Mr Small's registration history;
  - A prior offence for a positive substance matter within the past 12 months; and
  - GWIC penalty guidelines.

9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 4 at the Casino meeting on 31 January 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....