



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 3 August 2021

Decision-makers: A/Senior Legal Officer, Alice Stafford, Chief Inspector, David OShannessy and Senior Steward, Dean Degan

Name of relevant person: Mr Michael Hooper

Track: Richmond

Date: 26 March 2021

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

Charge(s): (1) Mr Hooper presented the greyhound 'Valentina Bale' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 9 at the Richmond meeting on 26 March 2021 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance

Prohibited Substance(s): Ethynylestradiol

Disciplinary action taken: \$1,500.00 fine

REPORT:

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, 'Valentina Bale' ("**Greyhound**") at the Richmond meeting on 26 March 2021.

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

Mr Hooper admitted the charge.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with the participant's election.

DECISION:

1. Mr Hooper is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 9 of the Richmond meeting on 26 March 2021 ("**Event**"). Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of ethynylestradiol. Ethynylestradiol is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Hooper with an 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. Mr Hooper admitted the charge, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Hooper:

To impose a fine in the sum of \$1,500.00.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Hooper has held a trainer registration for approximately 28 years;
 - Mr Hooper has one prior prohibited substance matter in his disciplinary history, being for caffeine and its metabolites in 2013;
 - Mr Hooper's admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - NSW greyhound racing precedents; and
 - Mr Hooper's submissions in mitigation of penalty, including an explanation of how the prohibited substance was present in the greyhound at the time of the offence.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 9 at the Richmond meeting on 26 March 2021 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....