



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Thursday 2 February 2023
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Dean Degan, Steward Shannon Kearney, Steward Ken Storck
Name of relevant person:	John Clarson
Track:	Grafton
Date:	13 November 2022
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr John Clarson presented the greyhound 'Smooth Heaven' for the purposes of competing in race 10 at the Grafton meeting on 13 November 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Arsenic
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a fine in the sum of \$1000 Four week suspension commencing Monday 6 February

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 12 December 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Smooth Heaven" at the Grafton meeting on 13 November 2022.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Arsenic.

DECISION:

1. Mr Clarson is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "Smooth Heaven" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 10 of the Grafton meeting on 13 November 2022. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Arsenic.
3. Arsenic is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.

4. On Wednesday 25 January 2023 Mr Clarson was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 25 January 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Clarson 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 four month suspension and invited Mr Clarson to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted via Teams on Thursday 2 February 2023, Mr Clarson:
 - (a) entered a plea of guilty and;
 - (b) made verbal submissions.
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Clarson’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 Clarson:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a fine in the sum of \$1000 and four week suspension commencing Monday 6 February

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Clarson’s guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr Clarson’s 52 year registration history
 - Second offence
 - GWIC penalty guidelines
 - Mr Clarson’s volunteer work in the industry

9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Grafton meeting on 13 November 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....