



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 6 October 2024
Decision-makers: Dean Degan and Tora Cavanagh
Name of relevant person: John Antonelli
Track: Grafton and Casino
Date: 7 May 2024 and 16 May 2024
Rule no.: 141 (1) (a)

Charge 1 -141 (1) (a)

1. That Mr Antonelli, as a registered Public Trainer, while in charge of the greyhound Bebe McGraw (“Greyhound”), presented the Greyhound for the purpose of competing in race 2 at the Grafton meeting on 7 May 2024 (“Event”) in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance;
2. The prohibited substances detected in the sample of urine taken from the Greyhound following the Event was Caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine; and
3. Caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine are prohibited substances under Rule 137 of the Rules.

Charge 2 - 141 (1) (a)

1. That Mr Antonelli, as a registered Public Trainer, while in charge of the greyhound Bebe McGraw (“**Greyhound**”), presented the Greyhound for the purpose of competing in race 2 at the Casino meeting on 16 May 2024 (“**Event**”) in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance;
2. The prohibited substances detected in the sample of urine taken from the Greyhound following the Event was Caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine; and
3. Caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine are prohibited substances under Rule 137 of the Rules.

Plea: Charge 1 – Guilty Plea
Charge 2 – Guilty Plea

Disciplinary action taken: Charge 1 – Four-month suspension. To be served concurrently with charge 2.
Charge 2 – Five-month suspension.

DECISION

1. John Antonelli was at all relevant times, a registered public trainer’s license with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (“**Commission**”).
2. On 1 October 2024, following an investigation by the Commission, a Notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”) was issued to John Antonelli. The Notice issued two charges under the 141 (1) (a) alleging breaches of the following:
3. John Antonelli attended a hearing on 6 October 2024 with the decision makers. At the hearing, John Antonelli admitted to the charge, and made submissions at the hearing.
4. The decision makers found the charge/s proven and took the following disciplinary action against John Antonelli:

To suspend John Antonelli for a period of four-months and five-months to be served concurrently.

5. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - The brief of evidence.
 - Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
 - The Commission’s Penalty Guidelines, in force from 1 January 2022;
 - Mr. Antonelli has held a registration for more than 70 years.
 - Mr. Antonelli’s disciplinary history
 - Mr. Antonelli’s guilty plea.
6. The length of time Mr. Antonelli has held a registration in the greyhound racing industry, together with his plea and lack of relevant disciplinary history were significant factors in mitigation considered by the decision makers and were a relevant consideration in reducing the proposed penalty from an eight-month suspension for both charges.

.....End.....