



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	5 December 2024
Decision-maker:	Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch and Acting Chief Steward Dean Degan
Name of relevant person:	Denice Warren
Track	Goulburn
Date:	22 March 2024
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Ms. Denice Warren presented the greyhound 'Infrared Rays' for the purpose of competing in race 8 at the Goulburn meeting on 22 March 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Phenobarbitone
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a suspension of 8 months, with the suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Ms Warren not breaching this, or similar, rule in this period.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 6 May 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Infrared Rays" at the Goulburn meeting on 22 March 2024.

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

DECISION:

1. Ms. Warren is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Infrared Rays" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 8 of the Goulburn meeting on 22 March 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Phenobarbitone

3. Phenobarbitone is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the Rules
4. On 19 July 2024 Ms. Warren was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 19 July 2024 the decision makers charged Ms. Warren 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 8 month suspension fine and invited Ms. Warren to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Sunday 21 July 2024 and 5 August 2024 Ms. Warren contacted decision makers and entered written submissions.
8. At the hearing held on Wednesday 4 September 2024 Ms. Warren;
 - a) entered a plea of Guilty; and
 - b) provided verbal submissions
9. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Ms. Warren's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms. Warren:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a suspension of 8 months, with the suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Ms Warren not breaching this, or similar, rule in this period.

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Ms. Warren's Guilty plea

- Ms. Warren’s disciplinary record, including a prior prohibited substance matter within the past three years
- The participant submitted written and video evidence that decision makers considered offered a plausible explanation for the presence of Phenobarbitone in the Greyhound
- The circumstances of the case which involved Ms Warren acting in accordance with veterinary advice and in the best interests of an associated greyhound under her care.
- The kennel procedures implemented by Ms Warren subsequent to her previous breach of the rule which clearly demonstrated her commitment to presenting her greyhounds free of prohibited substances.
- GWIC penalty guidelines

11. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Goulburn meeting on 22 March 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....