



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	5 December 2024
Decision-maker:	Acting Chief Steward Dean Degan and Steward Ben Boyce Mortlock
Name of relevant person:	Joe Comito
Track	Wentworth Park
Date:	9 February 2024
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Joe Comito presented the greyhound 'Steal A March' for the purpose of competing in race 1 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 9 February 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Ethynylestradiol, Norethisterone and 17a-Ethynyl-5 β -Estran-3a, 17 β -Diol
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a fine of \$2,250

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 25 March 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Steal A March" at the Wentworth Park meeting on 9 February 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Science Laboratory confirming the presence of Ethynylestradiol, Norethisterone and 17a-Ethynyl-5 β -Estran-3a, 17 β -Diol.

DECISION:

1. Mr. Comito is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "Steal A March" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 1 of the Wentworth Park meeting on 9 February 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Ethynylestradiol, Norethisterone and 17a-Ethynyl-5β-Estran-3a, 17β-Diol.
3. Ethynylestradiol, Norethisterone and 17a-Ethynyl-5β-Estran-3a, 17β-Diol is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the Rules
4. On 28 August 2024 Mr. Comito attended a Stewards Inquiry into the matter held via Microsoft Teams and provided verbal submissions.
5. On 29 November 2024 Mr. Comito was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
6. In the Notice issued on 29 November 2024 the decision makers charged Mr. Comito 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.

7. The Notice proposed a penalty of a \$3000 fine and invited Mr. Comito to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
8. On Thursday 5 December 2024 Mr. Comito contacted decision makers and:
 - a) entered a plea of Guilty
9. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Comito'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 Comito:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a fine of \$2,250

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Comito's Guilty plea (25% reduction)

- Mr. Comito’s disciplinary record, including a prior prohibited substance matter within the past five years.
- GWIC penalty guidelines

11. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 1 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 9 February 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....