

**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

<b>Date of decision:</b>	20 December 2024
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Senior Steward Zane Turner and Acting Chief Steward Dean Degan
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Shane Felke
<b>Track</b>	Wagga
<b>Date:</b>	4 October 2024
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Shane Felke presented the greyhound 'Bianca's Eyelash' for the purpose of competing in race 8 at the Wagga meeting on 4 October 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Methylprednisolone
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	To issue a fine of \$500 as well as impose a 4 week suspension, which will be wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Felke not reoffending under the same or similar rules in this period.

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 11 November 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Bianca's Eyelash" at the Wagga meeting on 4 October 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Science Centre confirming the presence of Methylprednisolone.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr. Felke is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of "Bianca's Eyelash" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 8 of the Wagga meeting on 4 October 2024. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Methylprednisolone.

3. Methylprednisolone is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the Rules
4. On 6 December 2024 Mr. Felke was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 6 December 2024 the decision makers charged Mr. Felke 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 two-month suspension and invited Mr. Felke to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Monday 9 December 2024 Mr. Felke contacted decision makers and:
  - a) entered written submissions;
  - b) entered a plea of guilty
8. On Thursday 19 December 2024 Mr. Felke contacted decision makers and;
  - a) Entered further written submissions
9. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr. Felke'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. Felke:

**Charge 141(1)(a):** To issue a fine of \$500 as well as impose a 4 week suspension, which will be wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Felke not reoffending under the same or similar rules in this period.
10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - a) Mr. Felke's Guilty plea (25% reduction)
  - b) Mr. Felke's disciplinary record, with a 28-year registration history and no prior prohibited substance offences; and

c) GWIC penalty guidelines

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

.....End.....