

## GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

### DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

<b>Date of decision:</b>	4 February 2019
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	A/Chief Steward, Gail Thorsby
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Ms. Natasha Watson
<b>Track:</b>	Kempsey
<b>Date:</b>	1 September 2018
<b>Rule no.:</b>	GAR 83(2)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	(1) The greyhound 'Jolly Mulwee' (" <b>Greyhound</b> ") was presented for the purposes of competing in race 7 at the Kempsey meeting on 1 September 2018 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance. Ms. Watson was the registered trainer of the Greyhound at that time.
<b>Prohibited substance(s):</b>	Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	14-week suspension

#### REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from the Racing Analytical Services Laboratory, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Jolly Mulwee' ("**Greyhound**") at the Kempsey meeting on 1 September 2018.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Ms. Watson with a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule ("**GAR**") 83(2)(a) given that the post-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of prohibited substance, caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.

Ms. Watson admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with the participant's election.

**DECISION:**

1. Ms. Watson is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 7 at the Kempsey meeting on 1 September 2018 (“Event”). Following the Event, as the Greyhound placed first, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine. Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine are prohibited substances under GAR 1 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules and category 4 prohibited substances under the NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines.
3. The Commission charged Ms. Watson under GAR 83(2)(a), which reads:
  - (2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-
    - (a) nominated to compete in an Event;
    - (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
    - (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revokedshall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. Ms. Watson admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms. Watson:

To suspend her trainer registration for a period of 14 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
  - Ms. Watson has been a registered trainer for a relatively short period of approximately 3 years;
  - Ms. Watson has no history of any prohibited substance matters;
  - NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents;
  - Ms. Watson’s admission at the earliest opportunity;
  - Ms. Watson’s written submissions in mitigation of penalty.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 7 at the Muswellbrook meeting on 1 September 2018 pursuant to GAR 83(4), which reads:
  - (4) A greyhound presented for an Event pursuant to sub-rules (1) or (2) shall be disqualified from the Event or any benefit derived from a trial or test.

.....End.....