

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 21 March 2019

Decision-maker: A/Chief Steward, Gail Thorsby

Name of relevant person: Mr. Leon Torrens

Track: Lismore

Date: 30 October 2018

Rule no.: GAR 83(2)(a)

Charge(s): (1) The greyhound 'Charlie What' ("**Greyhound**") was presented for the purposes of competing in race 2 at the Lismore meeting on 30 October 2018 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance. Mr. Torrens was the registered trainer of the Greyhound at that time.

Prohibited substance(s): Theobromine

Disciplinary action taken: 12-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 pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Charlie What' ("**Greyhound**") at the Lismore meeting on 30 October 2018.

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

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr. Torrens with a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule ("**GAR**") 83(2)(a) given that the pre-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of prohibited substance, theobromine.

Mr. Torrens failed to respond to the charge.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing.

DECISION:

1. Mr. Torrens is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound was presented for race 2 at the Lismore meeting on 30 October 2018 (“Event”) and a pre-Event urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of theobromine. Theobromine, a metabolite of caffeine, is a prohibited substance under GAR 1 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules and a category 4 prohibited substance under the NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines.
3. The Commission charged Mr. Torrens 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 revoked

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

4. Mr. Torrens failed to respond to the charge.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr. Torrens:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 12 weeks.

6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Torrens has been a registered trainer for a relatively short period of approximately 5 years;
 - Mr. Torrens has no history of any prohibited substance matters;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents;
 - Mr. Torren’s failure to respond to the charge.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 2 at the Lismore meeting on 30 October 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.....