



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 28 November 2019

Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind

Name of relevant person: Mr Peter Cassar

Track: Wauchope

Date: 13 July 2019

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

Charge(s): (1) Mr Cassar presented the greyhound 'Wonderstone' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 8 at the Wauchope meeting on 13 July 2019 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Prohibited substance(s): Atenolol

Disciplinary action taken: 8-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, 'Wonderstone' ("**Greyhound**") at the Wauchope meeting on 13 July 2019.

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

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr Cassar with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the pre-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of prohibited substance atenolol

Mr Howarth admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Cassar is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 8 at the Wauchope meeting on 13 July 2019 (“**Event**”) and a pre-Event urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of atenolol. Atenolol is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Cassar under Rule 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. Mr Cassar 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 Mr Cassar:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 8 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Cassar has been a registered trainer for approximately 10 years;
 - Mr Cassar has no history of any prohibited substance matters;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents;
 - Mr Cassar’s admission at the earliest opportunity;
 - Mr Cassar’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including confirmation he has reviewed and amended his animal husbandry practices, identified the likely source of the positive result being the medication of a person who handled the Greyhound and his remorse.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Wauchope meeting on 13 July 2019 pursuant to Rule 83(4).

.....End.....