



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

**Date of decision:** 13 December 2019

**Decision-maker:** Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind

**Name of relevant person:** Mr Ronald Wright

**Track:** Taree

**Date:** 27 July 2019

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

**Charge(s):** (1) Mr Wright presented the greyhound 'Cundle Reece' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 8 at the Taree meeting on 27 July 2019 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

**Prohibited substance(s):** Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine

**Disciplinary action taken:** 10-week suspension, with 6 weeks suspended for 12 months (conditionally)

Deferred to commence on 15 December 2019 under Rule 95(5)

**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, 'Cundle Reece' ("**Greyhound**") at the Taree meeting on 27 July 2019.

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 Mr Wright with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the post-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of prohibited substances caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.

Mr Wright admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Wright is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 8 at the Taree meeting on 27 July 2019 (“**Event**”) and a post-Event 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 Rule 1 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules and category 4 prohibited substances under the NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines.
3. The Commission charged Mr Wright 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 Wright admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity, provided 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 Wright:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 10 weeks, with 6 weeks suspended for 12 months after 4 weeks suspension is served on the condition that he does not breach Rule 83(2)(a) in that 12 month period.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Wright has been a registered participant in the industry for over 50 years;
  - Mr Wright has no history of any prohibited substance matters;
  - NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents;
  - Mr Wright's admission at the earliest opportunity;
  - Mr Wright's submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his personal circumstances and confirmation that he has reviewed his animal husbandry practices and identified the source as a husbandry failure, his personal circumstances and contribution to the greyhound racing industry.

7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Taree meeting on 27 July 2019 pursuant to Rule 83(4).

.....End.....