



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

**Date of decision:** 22 July 2020

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

**Name of relevant person:** Mr John Boersma

**Track:** Dapto

**Date:** 26 March 2020

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

**Charge(s):** (1) Mr Boersma presented the greyhound 'My Boy Chris' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 5 at the Dapto meeting on 26 March 2020 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

**Prohibited substance(s):** Theobromine

**Disciplinary action taken:** 4-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, 'My Boy Chris' ("Greyhound") at the Dapto meeting on 26 March 2020.

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 Boersma 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 the prohibited substance theobromine.

Mr Boersma admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Boersma is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 5 at the Dapto meeting on 26 March 2020 (“Event”). Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of theobromine. Theobromine is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Boersma 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 Boersma admitted the charge and provided submissions in response to the charge..
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Boersma:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 4 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Boersma has been a registered trainer for approximately 48 years. This was considered as an exceptional circumstance and a significant factor considered in Mr Boersma’s favour;
  - Mr Boersma has no prior disciplinary action matters;
  - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
  - Mr Boersma’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his personal circumstances, his review of his husbandry practices and his reasonable explanation as to the source of the positive swab.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 5 at the Dapto meeting on 26 March 2020 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....