



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 4 August 2020

Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind

Name of relevant person: Ms Louise McGee

Track: Maitland

Date: 24 October 2019

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

Charge(s): (1) A greyhound registered under Ms McGee's trainership, 'Makosa' ("**Greyhound**") was presented for the purposes of competing in race 8 at the Maitland meeting on 24 October 2019 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Prohibited substance(s): Dexamethasone

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, 'Makosa' ("**Greyhound**") at the Maitland meeting on 24 October 2019.

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

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Ms McGee 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 the prohibited substance dexamethasone.

Ms McGee denied the charge.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing.

DECISION:

1. Ms McGee is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 8 at the Maitland meeting on 24 October 2019 (“Event”). Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of dexamethasone. Dexamethasone is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. Expert evidence before the Commission revealed the substance dexamethasone is excreted via urine and faeces, and any faecal matter included in the sample produced by the Greyhound would confirm the prohibited substance was present within the body systems of that Greyhound.
4. There was evidence of sediment of faecal matter from the Greyhound in the sample.
5. The Commission charged Ms McGee 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.
6. Ms McGee denied the charge and provided written submissions.
7. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms McGee:

To suspend her trainer registration for a period of 12 weeks.
8. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Ms McGee has been a registered trainer for approximately 23 years;
 - Ms McGee has one prior positive swab disciplinary matter from 2013 for which she received a fine;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
 - Mr McGee’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to the swabbing process and her contributions to the industry.
9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Maitland meeting on 24 October 2019 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....