



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 21 August 2020

Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind

Name of relevant person: Mrs Melanie Mabbott

Track: Dubbo

Date: 22 November 2019

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

Charge(s): (1) Mrs Mabbott presented the greyhound 'Prebble Keeping' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 10 at the Dubbo meeting on 22 November 2019 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Permanently banned prohibited substance: Dehydronorketamine

Disciplinary action taken: 26-week suspension (wholly and conditionally suspended for 12-months)

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Pebble Keeping' ("**Greyhound**") at the Dubbo meeting on 22 November 2019.

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

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mrs Mabbott 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 dehydronorketamine.

Mrs Mabbott admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

DECISION:

1. Mrs Mabbott is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 10 at the Dubbo meeting on 22 November 2019 (“Event”). Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of dehydronorketamine. Dehydronorketamine is a permanently banned prohibited substance under Rule 79A(2)(v) of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mrs Mabbott 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. Mrs Mabbott admitted the charge, provided written submissions and other material in support of her response and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mrs Mabbott:

To suspend her trainer registration for a period of 26 weeks, wholly suspended for a period of 12-months on the condition that Mrs Mabbott does not breach Rule 83(2)(a) during that 12-month period.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mrs Mabbott has held a greyhound licence for approximately 8 years;
 - Mrs Mabbott has no like matters in his disciplinary history;
 - The prizemoney which will be affected by the taking of this disciplinary action;
 - Expert evidence in relation to the likely source of the prohibited substance stemming from meat contamination of knackery meat;
 - The estimated level of the prohibited substance detected being considered as low;
 - Greyhound racing penalty precedents;
 - Mrs Mabbott’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to her good character and record, personal circumstances, her feeding practices including the use of knackery meat and the amendment to her feeding practices in line with the Commission’s recommendations.

7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Dubbo meeting on 22 November 2019 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.
8. The Commission notes that there have been several recent cases involving meat contamination as the suggested and / or likely source of a positive swab coming before it. For offences that arise in the future, consideration will be given to larger penalties to communicate to the greyhound racing community that the feeding of knackery meat is an unacceptable practice and must stop.

.....End.....