

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

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| Date of decision: | 3 May 2022 |
| Decision-makers: | Director Compliance, Policy & Legal Services, Matthew Tutt and Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch and Legal Officer, Annalese Summerson-Hingston |
| Name of relevant person: | Mrs Simone Gittoes |
| Track: | Richmond |
| Date: | 21 January 2022 |
| Rule no.: | 83(2)(a) ² |
| Charge(s): | Mrs Gittoes presented the greyhound 'Belmont Rose' (" Greyhound ") for the purposes of competing in race 10 at the Richmond meeting on 21 January 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance |
| Prohibited Substance(s): | Salbutamol |
| Disciplinary action taken: | To suspend Mrs Gittoes's registration for a period of ten (10) weeks. |

Investigation

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 23 February 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-Event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Belmont Rose' ("**Greyhound**") at the Richmond meeting on 21 January 2022.

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

DECISION:

1. Mrs Gittoes is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 10 of the Richmond meeting on 21 January 2022. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of salbutamol. Salbutamol is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**").
3. On 21 April 2022 Mrs Gittoes was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**") in relation to the charge, setting out the proposed disciplinary action to be

² This is the applicable rule in force at the time of the offence. Rule 141(1) of the Greyhound Racing Rules as published 1 May 2022 is the comparative rule.

taken and the grounds in support of that proposed disciplinary action. The Notice also provided a brief of evidence for the charge.

4. In the Notice issued on 21 April 2022 the decision makers charged Mrs Gittoes with the offence 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;

...

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

5. The Notice proposed a penalty of a sixteen (16) weeks suspension and invited Mrs Gittoes to attend a scheduled hearing to enter a plea in relation to the charge and to make submissions in relation to the charge and the proposed penalty.
6. On Tuesday 3 May 2022 Mrs Gittoes attended the scheduled hearing with the decision makers and entered a plea of guilty and provided evidence.
7. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mrs Gittoes:

Charge (83(2)(a)): To suspend Mrs Gittoes' registration for a period of ten (10) weeks.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
 - The length of time Mrs Gittoes has held a trainer registration, being since 2002, a period of approximately twenty (20) years;
 - Mrs Gittoes's disciplinary history – she does not have any like matters on her record;
 - Mrs Gittoes's plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity;
 - Mrs Gittoes evidence at the hearing; and
9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Richmond meeting on 21 January 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.
10. In accordance with their powers under Rule 174(4) of the Rules, the decision makers deferred commencement of the penalty until 5 May 2022.

.....End.....