



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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	Sunday 2 April 2023
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Senior Steward Dean Degan, Steward Shannon Kearney, Steward Ken Storck
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Mark Knowles
<b>Track:</b>	Casino
<b>Date:</b>	27 December 2022
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Mark Knowles presented the greyhound 'Ever Since' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 1 at the Casino meeting on 27 December 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Meloxicam
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	\$1000 fine

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 9 February 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Ever Since' at the Casino meeting on 27 December 2022.

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

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Knowles is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of 'Ever Since' ("Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 1 of the Casino meeting on 27 December 2022. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Meloxicam in excess of the screening limit of 2 nanograms per millilitre.

3. Meloxicam in excess of the screening limit of 2 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 146(6)(f) of the Rules,
4. On Tuesday 28 March 2023 Mr Knowles was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 28 March 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Knowles with an offence under Rule 141(1)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

**Rule 141(1), Rules**

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

...

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

...

(3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to subrule (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

6. The Notice proposed a penalty of a \$2,000 fine and invited Mr Knowles to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted at the Grafton Greyhound Track on Sunday 2 March 2023, Mr Knowles:

(a) entered a plea of guilty and;

(b) made verbal submissions.

8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Knowles' plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Knowles:

To issue a \$1,000 fine

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Knowles' guilty plea (25% reduction);
  - Mr Knowles' 15-year registration history and good record;
  - No prior offending for a similar matter;
  - GWIC penalty guidelines.

9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 1 at the Casino meeting on 27 December 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....