



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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	Wednesday 6 December 2023
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Senior Steward Dean Degan, Steward Michael Hall and Steward Craig Easey
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Graham Thurkettle
<b>Track:</b>	Temora
<b>Date:</b>	18 September 2023
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Graham Thurkettle presented the greyhound 'Pooky Holler' for the purposes of competing in race 11 at the Temora meeting on 18 September 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Gabapentin
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	To issue a four-week suspension, to commence Thursday 14 December 2023 and end Thursday 11 January 2024

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 26 October 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Pooky Holler" at the meeting on 18 September 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Science Centre confirming the presence of Gabapentin.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Thurkettle is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of "Pooky Holler" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 11 of the Temora meeting on 18 September 2023. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Gabapentin.
3. Gabapentin is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.

4. On 28 November 2023 Mr Thurkettle was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 28 November 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Thurkettle 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 invited Mr Thurkettle to attend a hearing on Wednesday 6 December 2023 to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted 6 December 2023 Mr Thurkettle;
  - Entered a plea of guilty; and
  - Made verbal submissions.
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Thurkettle’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Thurkettle:

**Charge 141 (1) (a):** To issue a four-week suspension, to commence Thursday 14 December 2023 and end Thursday 11 January 2024

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Thurkettle’s guilty plea (25% reduction)
  - Mr Thurkettle’s registration history with no prior offences.
  - GWIC penalty guidelines
10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 11 at the Temora meeting on 18 September 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....