



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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	Monday 22 January 2024
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Steward Ben Boyce-Mortlock
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Rodney McDonald
<b>Track</b>	Goulburn
<b>Date:</b>	6 November 2023
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Rodney McDonald presented the greyhound 'Dana Dennis' for the purposes of competing in race 7 at the Goulburn meeting on 6 November 2023 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>	To issue a fine of \$1,000 and a 3-week suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. McDonald not breaching this or any like rule in this period.

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 8 December 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Dana Dennis" at the Goulburn meeting on 6 November 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Meloxicam at mass concentration of greater than 2 nanograms per millimetre.

## DECISION:

1. Mr McDonald is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of “Dana Dennis” (“the Greyhound”). The Greyhound competed in race 7 of the Goulburn meeting on 6 November 2023. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Meloxicam.
3. Meloxicam at mass concentration of greater than 2 nanograms per millimetre is a prohibited substance under Rule 146(6)(f) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 10 January 2024 Mr McDonald was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 10 January 2024 the decision makers charged Mr McDonald 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 two-month suspension and invited Mr McDonald to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Monday 22 January 2024 Mr McDonald, and his representative, attended a hearing held over Microsoft Teams and:
  - a) entered a plea of guilty; and
  - b) made verbal submissions
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr McDonald’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 McDonald:

**Charge 141(1)(a):** To issue a fine of \$1,000 and a 3-week suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. McDonald not breaching this or any like rule in this period.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- Mr McDonald's guilty plea (25% reduction)
- Mr McDonald's 30-year registration history with no like prior offences
- Mr. McDonald's record of voluntary contributions to the industry
- Personal and professional circumstances
- Decision makers were confident that it was possible to establish a potential source of the contamination and Mr. McDonald committed to reviewing husbandry practices to avoid future repetition.
- GWIC penalty guidelines

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 7 at the Goulburn meeting on 6 November 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....