



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Friday 19 April 2024
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Dean Degan, Steward Michael Hall and Cadet Steward Zac Vella
Name of relevant person:	Peter Cowell
Track:	Wagga
Date:	19 January 2024
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Cowell presented the greyhound 'Magic Eclipse' for the purposes of competing in race 3 at the Wagga meeting on 19 January 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
Prohibited Substance(s):	Gabapentin
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a fine of \$750

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 20 February 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Magic Eclipse" at the meeting on 19 January 2024.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Cowell is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "Magic Eclipse" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 3 of the Wagga meeting on 19 January 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Gabapentin.

3. Gabapentin is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 20 March 2024 Mr Cowell was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 20 March 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Cowell 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 Cowell to attend a hearing on Friday 19 April 2024 to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted 19 April 2024 Mr Cowell;
 - Entered a plea of guilty; and
 - Made verbal submissions.
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Cowell’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 Cowell:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a fine of \$750

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Cowell’s guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr Cowell’s 20 year registration history with no prior offences.
 - GWIC penalty guidelines and precedents
10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 3 at the Wagga meeting on 19 January 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....