



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Wednesday 8 May 2024
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Dean Degan, Steward Craig Easey and Cadet Steward Zac Vella
Name of relevant person:	Cheryl Buick
Track	Temora
Date:	31 January 2024
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Ms Cheryl Buick presented the greyhound 'Only Ollie' for the purpose of competing in race 8 at the Temora meeting on 31 January 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Phenobarbitone
Plea:	Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a suspension of six weeks, wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve months pending no further breaches under this or any like rule.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 6 March 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Only Ollie" at the Temora meeting on 31 January 2024.

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

DECISION:

1. Ms Buick is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Only Ollie" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 8 of the Temora meeting on 31 January 2024. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Phenobarbitone.
3. Phenobarbitone is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 1 May 2024 Ms Buick was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 1 May 2024 the decision makers charged Ms Buick 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 four-month suspension and invited Ms Buick to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Monday 6 May, 2024 Ms Buick contacted decision makers and entered a plea of guilty to the charge.
8. On Wednesday 8 May 2024 Ms Buick attended a hearing held over Microsoft Teams and:
 - a) made verbal submissions;
9. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Ms Buick's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms Buick:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a suspension of six weeks, wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve months pending no further breaches under this or any like rule.

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

- Ms Buick's guilty plea (25% reduction)
- Ms Buick's 24-year registration history with no like prior offences
- Ms. Buick's commitment to reviewing and improving husbandry practices; and
- GWIC penalty guidelines

11. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Temora meeting on 31 January 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....