

1 November 2023

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **AARON SETFORD**

- Date of hearing:** 24 October 2023
- Panel:** Magistrate John Doherty (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Amanda Dickens.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Aaron Setford represented himself.
- Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1) states:  
(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:  
(a) nominated to compete in an Event;  
(b) presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for by the Rules; or  
(c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a stand-down period being varied or revoked,  
must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
- Particulars:**
1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
  2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound “Tinted”.
  3. Tinted was nominated to compete in Race 12, SPORTSBET MAKE IT LOOK EASY, Grade 5, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 14 February 2023 (the Event).
  4. On 14 February 2023, you presented Tinted at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Tinted at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

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## **DECISION**

Mr Aaron Setford has pleaded guilty to a presentation charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1).

The greyhound, “Tinted”, was presented for and competed in Race 12 at Warragul on 14 February 2023. A pre-race urine sample detected the prohibited substance, meloxicam.

Mr Setford feeds his non-racing greyhounds knackery meat. On this occasion, the most probable cause of the positive sample was that Tinted was given the incorrect feed and inadvertently fed knackery meat. It appears to have been a genuine mistake.

Mr Setford has been involved in greyhound racing for more than 20 years. He has four racing greyhounds and is best described as a hobby trainer. He has a clean record.

We are aware that considerations of general deterrence, consistency in penalties and the need for drug free racing are paramount in maintaining integrity in the greyhound racing industry. We are also guided by penalties recently imposed by this Tribunal.

In all the circumstances, we impose a \$1,500 fine, with \$1,000 suspended for a period of 24 months. A fine of \$500 is payable immediately.

In addition, Tinted is disqualified from Race 12 at Warragul on 14 February 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

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Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal