

18 July 2023

**DECISION****GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

and

**GREGORY SCHOFIELD**

- Date of hearing:** 18 July 2023
- Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson) and Judge Julie Nicholson.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Gregory Schofield represented himself.
- Charges:** 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.
- GAR 151(1) states:  
(1) The person in charge of a greyhound must keep and retain written records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and treatments administered to the greyhound:  
(a) from the time the greyhound enters their care until the greyhound leaves their care; and  
(b) for a minimum of two years
- Particulars of charges:** **Charge 1: GAR 141(1)**
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 "Bow Zarr Dashian".
3. Bow Zarr Dashian was nominated to compete in Race 4, TTS ELECTRICS (300+ RANK), Grade 7, conducted by the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club at Geelong on 23 August 2022 (the Event).
4. On 23 August 2022, you presented Bow Zarr Dashian at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
  - (a) A post-race sample of urine was taken from Bow Zarr Dashian at the Event (the Sample);
  - (b) Ketoprofen was detected in the Sample.

**Charge 2: GAR 151(1)**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Racing Victoria Rules of Racing.
2. On 5 October 2022, you failed to produce treatment records for inspection, upon request from Mr Andrew Spence, a person authorised by the Controlling Body, for greyhounds for which you were the responsible person at the relevant time.

**Pleas:** Guilty to both charges

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**DECISION**

Mr Gregory Schofield, you have pleaded guilty to two offences. One is a presentation charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule ("GAR") 141(1). It concerns "Bow Zarr Dashian", which won Race 4 at Geelong on 23 August 2022. A post-race urine sample tested positive to the prohibited substance, ketoprofen, which has the capacity to be a positive agent in respect of pain relief.

The second charge is a breach of GAR 151(1) – the failure to keep treatment records.

Dealing firstly with Charge 1, in the opinion of Dr Steven Karamatic, the most likely source of the ketoprofen is knackery meat. You freely admit that you have fed your dogs meat not fit for human consumption for five or six years. This meat, which usually comes from the one source, was liked by your dogs and you used it regularly. You described yourself as being from “the old school” and did not read emails, messages and the like forwarded by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”). You have only two dogs racing, but, as we understand it, you are continuing to feed them the same meat not fit for human consumption from the same source. Your only experiment with meat fit for human consumption resulted in the dogs suffering diarrhea attacks.

We accept the expert opinion of Dr Karamatic and the evidence generally on behalf of the Stewards. The most likely source of the prohibited substance was knackery meat. Even after being charged and discussing matters with the Stewards, you have preferred to take the risk and persist with feeding them knackery meat.

In those circumstances, whilst you may be entitled to some discount for your guilty plea, it is difficult to say that you have learned your lesson and clearly you have not changed your feeding habits and have persisted with them.

Further, you received a substantial period of disqualification for a similar offence in 2017. This involved the presence of methamphetamines and like substances in a race day sample. It would be fair to say that the prohibited substances involved were of a far more serious nature than the substance in the present case. In any event, you were disqualified for 12 months, with six months of that suspended for 12 months. Thus, you were immediately disqualified for six months. This was an offence of a like nature to the present case, but considerably more serious. We have to take it into account.

In summary, you were found guilty of a similar, but more serious, offence seven years ago. You have pleaded guilty to the present charges, but effectively have expressed no remorse and have continued to feed the dogs knackery meat.

We appreciate that you are 64 years of age, and have been involved in the industry, off and on, for decades. Your father was a prominent person in the industry. You now have just the two dogs racing and two pet greyhounds. We have some sympathy for you and accept that you are devoted to your dogs, but you are blatantly continuing to feed the racing dogs exactly the same meat as that which caused this positive return.

Bearing all of the above in mind, including your significant prior conviction, we are of the view that the penalty suggested by Mr Pearce on behalf of the Stewards is appropriate. On Charge 1, you are suspended for a period of three months, with one month in turn suspended for a

period of 24 months. If you commit a similar offence in that period, it is activated. You are also fined the sum of \$500.

In relation to Charge 2, you also show little remorse in relation to that. The keeping of adequate records is of great importance to the conduct of the industry. Your explanation seems again to be simply that you are of “the old school”. You are also fined \$500 on this charge.

Further, Bow Zarr Dashian is disqualified as the winner of Race 4 at Geelong on 23 August 2022 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

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Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal