

9 February 2023

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

JENNIFER GIESCHEN

- Date of hearing:** 1 February 2023
- Panel:** Magistrate John Doherty (Deputy Chairperson) and Judge Marilyn Harbison.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mrs Jennifer Gieschen represented herself.
- 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 of charge:**
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 “Valencia Ted”.
 3. Valencia Ted was nominated to compete in Race 2, ROTTI SECURITY, Maiden, conducted by the Sale Greyhound Racing Club at Sale on 12 August 2022 (the Event).
 4. On 12 August 2022, you presented Valencia Ted at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A post-race sample of blood was taken from Valencia Ted at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Mrs Jennifer Gieschen is a public trainer with a long association with the greyhound racing industry. She was first registered as a licensed participant in 2005. She has pleaded guilty to a 'presentation' charge relating to the therapeutic prohibited substance, meloxicam, an analgesic/anti-inflammatory drug.

There is no evidence of the direct use of meloxicam by Mrs Gieschen. The most likely source of the drug is the use by Mrs Gieschen of knackery meat in the days leading up to the race. We are advised that Mrs Gieschen's feeding regime has changed in an effort to eliminate the prospect of further drug offences.

Mrs Gieschen has not been charged with a prohibited drug offence previously and her plea of guilty is indicative of her remorse and acceptance of responsibility for the Rule breach.

We are mindful of recent penalties for 'like' offences and the need to deter others from offending, as well as the need for drug free racing and a level playing field.

In all these circumstances, we impose a \$1,000 fine, with \$500 suspended for two years pending no further Rule breaches.

In addition, "Valencia Ted" is disqualified from Race 2 at Sale on 12 August 2022.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal