

2 February 2023

DECISION**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

and

JOE INTERLIGI

- Date of hearing:** 30 January 2023
- Panel:** Judge Graeme Hicks (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr June Smith.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr Joe Interligi 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 "*Inter Teddy*".
 3. "*Inter Teddy*" was nominated to compete in Race 4, JASON McKEOWN PHOTOGRAPHY, Maiden, conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Association at Healesville on 6 July 2022 (**the Event**).
 4. On 6 July 2022, you presented "*Inter Teddy*" at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

- (a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “*Inter Teddy*” upon arrival at the Event (**the Sample**);
- (b) Piroxicam and 5-hydroxyproxicam were detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Mr Joe Interligi, you have pleaded guilty to breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1).

On 6 July 2022 you presented your greyhound Inter Teddy in race 4 at the Healesville Greyhound Club meeting when it was not free of a prohibited substance, namely Piroxicam.

Piroxicam can affect the performance of a greyhound.

Dr Karamatic, Chief Veterinarian of Greyhound Racing Victoria, in his report of 21 September 2022 stated that there are 15 therapeutic goods administration products fit for human consumption and all are prescription only medicines and can only be prescribed to an animal by a registered veterinary surgeon.

Though some explanations were offered by you as to how Piroxicam may have got into your greyhound’s system, there is simply no evidence as to how this in fact occurred.

In relation to your personal circumstances. You are 77 years of age and a pensioner. You have one greyhound in work and have two pups. You registered as a greyhound racing trainer in 2015.

The principle of general deterrence has a part to play in arriving at an appropriate penalty. It is vital that greyhounds race on a level playing field without prohibited substances in their systems.

We have taken into account your personal circumstances and your good history within the greyhound racing industry, together with your plea of guilty and your co-operation with the Stewards.

There have been several warnings published as to the risk of greyhounds producing positive swabs as a result of contamination from human medications.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of \$1,500 with \$750 of that penalty to be suspended for a period of 12 months.

We order that Inter Teddy be disqualified from race 4 at the Healesville Greyhound Race Club meeting conducted on 6 July 2022 and that the placings be amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal