

9 November 2023

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

PETER DEDES

- Date of hearing:** 31 October 2023
- Panel:** Magistrate John Doherty (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr Peter Dedes 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 “Aussie Chainsaw”.
 3. Aussie Chainsaw was nominated to compete in Race 6, healesville.grv.org.au, Grade 5, conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Association at Healesville on 5 March 2023 (the Event).
 4. On 5 March 2023, you presented Aussie Chainsaw at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

- (a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Aussie Chainsaw at the Event (the Sample);
- (b) Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

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

On 5 March 2023, the greyhound, “Aussie Chainsaw”, was presented for and competed in Race 6 at Healesville. A pre-race urine sample detected the prohibited substance, meloxicam.

The most probable cause for the positive swab is that Aussie Chainsaw was fed knackery meat at a time when Mr Dedes’ supply of meat fit for human consumption was low. This was despite regular notices to the greyhound racing industry regarding the dangers of returning a positive swab to prohibited substances if knackery meat is fed to racing greyhounds.

Mr Dedes is 76 years of age and has been involved in greyhound racing since 1965. He is currently in remission from prostate cancer. He has a long, clean record, with only one positive swab since 2013.

We take into account the guilty plea of Mr Dedes and his cooperation with the Stewards. We are also aware of the need for drug free racing, consistency in penalties and the need for a level playing field for all participants in greyhound racing. We are also guided by penalties recently imposed by this Tribunal.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a \$1,500 fine, with \$500 suspended for a period of 24 months.

We also order that Aussie Chainsaw be disqualified from Race 6 at Healesville on 5 March 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal