

29 March 2023

## **DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**RONALD CAMERON**

**and**

**MAX CAMERON**

- Date of hearing:** 16 March 2023
- Panel:** Magistrate John Doherty (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Ronald Cameron represented himself.  
Mr Max Cameron represented himself.
- Charges:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(1A) states:  
(1A) A person who –  
(a) administers, attempts to administer or causes to be administered a prohibited substance to a greyhound;  
(b) aids, abets counsels or procures any person to administer a prohibited substance to a greyhound; or  
(c) has prior knowledge of a prohibited substance being administered to a greyhound  
which is detected in any sample taken from such greyhound that has been presented for an Event or when subject to any other contingency provided for pursuant to these Rules, shall be guilty of an offence.
- GAR 83A(3) states:  
(3) In addition to sub-rule (1) of this Rule, no person without the permission of Stewards may administer or cause to be administered any injectable substance to a greyhound at any

time on the day prior to the day of an Event that it is nominated to compete in.

For the purposes of this Rule, "treatment" includes:

- a) All Controlled Drugs (Schedule 8) administered by a veterinarian;
- b) All Prescription Animal Remedies and Prescription Only Medicines (Schedule 4);
- c) Any injectable substance not already specified in this Rule;
- d) All Pharmacist Only (Schedule 3) and Pharmacy Only (Schedule 2) medicines;
- e) All veterinary and other substances containing other scheduled and unscheduled prohibited substances.

For the purposes of this Rule, "day" means the 24-hour period from 12:01am to 12 midnight on any calendar day.

GAR 83(2) states:

- (2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-
  - (a) nominated to compete in an Event;
  - (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
  - (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revoked shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

GAR 84A(1) states:

- (1) The person in charge of a greyhound must keep and retain records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and medical treatments administered to a greyhound from the time the greyhound enters their care until the greyhound leaves their care and for a minimum of two (2) years. Such record of treatment must be produced for inspection when requested by a Steward or a person authorised by the Controlling Body. Any person responsible for a greyhound at the relevant time who fails to comply with any provision of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

**Particulars of charges: Ronald Cameron**

**Charge 1: GAR 83(1A)**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules.
2. "Just A Minute" was presented for, and competed in, Race 5, TOP RUN IMAGES (2-3 WINS), Restricted Win, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 26 February 2022 (the Event).
3. You administered, or caused to be administered, to Just A Minute, a prohibited substance, being Cobalt, which was detected in a sample taken from Just A Minute in that:
  - (a) You administered a product containing Cobalt, namely the injectable substance "Troy Vitamin B12 injection", to Just A Minute on 25 February 2022;
  - (b) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Just A Minute at the Event (the Sample);
  - (c) Cobalt was detected at a mass concentration of greater than 100 nanograms per millilitre in the Sample.

**Charge 2: GAR 83A(3)**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules.
2. "Just A Minute" was nominated for, and competed in, Race 5, TOP RUN IMAGES (2-3 WINS), Restricted Win, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 26 February 2022 (the Event).
3. You administered, or caused to be administered, to "Just A Minute", a Treatment, being the injectable substance 'Troy Vitamin B12', on the day prior to the day of the Event in that:

(a) You were authorised by Mr Max Cameron to administer 'Troy Vitamin B12 Injection' to "Just A Minute";

(b) You administered the injectable substance 'Troy Vitamin B12 injection', to "Just A Minute" on 25 February 2022 (the Treatment);

4. The Treatment was not authorised by the Stewards.

**Max Cameron**

**Charge 1: GAR 83(1A)**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules.

2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound "Just A Minute".

3. Just A Minute was presented for, and competed in, Race 5, TOP RUN IMAGES (2-3 WINS), Restricted Win, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 26 February 2022 (the Event).

4. You caused to be administered to Just A Minute, a prohibited substance, being Cobalt, which was detected in a sample taken from Just A Minute in that:

(a) You authorised Mr Ronald Cameron to administer "Troy Vitamin B12 Injection" to Just A Minute;

(b) Mr Ronald Cameron administered a product containing Cobalt, namely the injectable substance Troy Vitamin B12 injection, to Just A Minute on 25 February 2022;

(c) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Just A Minute at the Event (the Sample);

(d) Cobalt was detected at a mass concentration of greater than 100 nanograms per millilitre in the Sample.

**Charge 2: GAR 83A(3)**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules.
2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound "Just A Minute".
3. Just A Minute was nominated for, and competed in, Race 5, TOP RUN IMAGES (2-3 WINS), Restricted Win, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 26 February 2022 (the Event).
4. You administered, or caused to be administered, to Just A Minute, a Treatment, being the injectable substance "Troy Vitamin B12", on the day prior to the day of the Event in that:
  - (a) You authorised Mr Ronald Cameron to administer Troy Vitamin B12 Injection to Just A Minute;
  - (b) Mr Ronald Cameron administered the injectable substance Troy Vitamin B12 injection, to Just A Minute on 25 February 2022 (the Treatment);
5. The Treatment was not authorised by the Stewards.

**Charge 3: GAR 83(2)**

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 "Just A Minute".
3. Just A Minute was nominated to compete in Race 5, TOP RUN IMAGES (2-3 WINS), Restricted Win, conducted by the

Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 26 February 2022 (the Event).

4. On 26 February 2022, you presented Just A Minute at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

(b) Cobalt was detected at a mass concentration of greater than 100 nanograms per millilitre in the Sample.

**Charge 4: GAR 84A(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. You were at all relevant times the Trainer of the greyhound Just A Minute.

3. On 25 February 2022, you authorised Mr Ronald Cameron to administer a treatment, namely the injectable substance "Troy Vitamin B12 injection" to Just A Minute (the Treatment).

4. The Treatment was not recorded in your treatment records when they were produced to GRV Stewards Mrs Catherine Scarlett and Ms Lee Fahry upon their request on 3 April 2022.

5. The Treatment is required to be recorded in your treatment records.

**Pleas:** **Ronald Cameron:** Guilty

**Max Cameron:** Guilty

---

## DECISION

### Max Cameron

Mr Max Cameron is a public trainer and is the son of Mr Ronald Cameron, who is also a co-accused in this matter.

Mr Max Cameron is working as an assistant curator at the Healesville Greyhound Racing Club. He trains as part of a joint venture, with his father who takes responsibility for feeding "Just A Minute" a vitamin B substance, "Troy Vitamin B12", on the day prior to race day. Mr Max Cameron was the trainer and handler on race day.

It is noted that Mr Max Cameron has pleaded guilty to all the charges brought by the Stewards and has cooperated with them.

However, as the responsible trainer, it is his responsibility to ensure the greyhound is presented drug-free to ensure a level playing field for all participants. In addition, penalties should reflect the need for general deterrence and consistency.

In this case, the following penalties will apply:

Charge 1: 12 months suspension with nine months wholly suspended for 24 months.

Charge 2: six months suspension with four months suspended for 24 months, to be concurrent with Charge 1.

Charge 3: 12 months suspension with nine months suspended for 24 months, to be concurrent with Charge 1.

Charge 4: \$250 fine.

The effective penalty is therefore 12 months suspension with nine months suspended for 24 months and a \$250 fine.

In addition, Just A Minute is disqualified from Race 5 at Warragul on 26 February 2022.

### Ronald Cameron

Mr Ronald Cameron is a public trainer, describing himself as a 'hobbyist'. He trains as a joint venture with his son, Mr Max Cameron, also a co-accused in this matter. Neither Mr Ronald Cameron nor Mr Max Cameron has previously been charged with offences relating to

prohibited substances, despite 59 swab samples for Mr Ronald Cameron and 22 for Mr Max Cameron.

By his own admission, Mr Ronald Cameron has acknowledged that he fed Just A Minute the “Troy Vitamin B12” injection containing cobalt on the day before race day. He is not the registered trainer of that greyhound. His son, Max, was the registered trainer on race day.

Mr Ronald Cameron currently trains a small number of greyhounds. He has pleaded guilty to the abovementioned charges and has been cooperative with the Stewards.

In our opinion, a suspension of licence is warranted. In the circumstances, we impose the following penalties:

Charge 1: 12 months suspension, with nine months wholly suspended for 24 months.

Charge 2: six months suspension, with four months suspended for 24 months, to be concurrent with Charge 1.

The effective penalty is therefore 12 months suspension with nine months suspended for 24 months.

---

Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal