

15 August 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

ADAM RICHARDSON

- Date of hearing:** 9 August 2024
- Date of decision:** 9 August 2024
- Panel:** The Hon. Shane Marshall AM (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr June Smith.
- Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr Adam Richrdson 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(3) states:
(3) Each record of treatment kept in accordance with this rule must be made by midnight on the day on which the treatment was given, and, as a minimum requirement, include the following information:
(a) the name of the greyhound;
(b) the date and time of administration of the treatment;
(c) the name of the treatment (brand name or active constituent);
(d) the route of administration;
(e) the amount given; and

(f) the name and signature of the person or persons administering and/or authorising the treatment.

For the purpose of subrule (3), “day” means the 24-hour period from 12.00am to 11.59pm on any calendar day.

Particulars:

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 “Fireworks”.

3. Fireworks was nominated to compete in Race 12, WANNON PARK BINGO WEDNESDAY’S, Grade 5, conducted by the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club at Warrnambool on 12 October 2023 (the Event).

4. On 12 October 2023, you presented Fireworks at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A post-race sample of urine was taken from Fireworks at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Guaifenesin was detected in the Sample.

Charge 2: GAR 151(3)

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 “Fireworks”.

3. On 13 November 2023, you presented treatment records for inspection, upon request from GRV Steward Cameron Day, a

person authorised by the Controlling Body, for greyhounds for which you were the responsible person at the relevant time.

4. Between 29 December 2021 and 5 September 2023, twenty (20) treatments were administered to the greyhound Fireworks, being thirteen (13) Worming treatments and seven (7) Flea treatments (the Treatments).

5. The Treatments were recorded in your treatment records on 13 November 2023.

6. The Treatments are required to be recorded in your treatment records by midnight on the day on which the treatment was given.

Pleas: Guilty

DECISION

1. Mr Adam Richardson is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the greyhound, "Fireworks". Fireworks competed in Race 12 at Warrnambool on 12 October 2023. A sample of urine taken from the greyhound after the race revealed the presence of the prohibited substance, guaifenesin.
2. Guaifenesin is a muscle relaxant generally used to assist animals recover from anaesthetic. It is commonly found in knackery or not fit for human consumption meat and can affect the condition or performance of a greyhound in a negative way. The most likely cause of the positive swab in this matter was the feeding of knackery meat to Fireworks.
3. For at least the last eight years, Greyhound Racing Victoria ("GRV") Stewards have cautioned trainers in their publications widely circulated among industry participants about the dangers of feeding greyhounds knackery meat, and, in particular, the likelihood of this resulting in positive swabs, not only to guaifenesin, but also to other prohibited substances, such as procaine.
4. Stewards of GRV have charged Mr Richardson with an offence under Greyhounds Australasia Rule ("GAR") 141(1) – presenting a greyhound for an event while not free of a prohibited substance. Mr Richardson has pleaded guilty to the Charge. Mr Richardson has

purchased a form of not fit for human consumption meat for several years, but did not have any difficulty with positive swabs prior to this race. He puts that down to a change in the constitution of the meat he has been purchasing. He understands that this is no excuse and now feeds his greyhounds kangaroo meat.

5. Mr Richardson has also been charged with a record keeping offence under GAR 151(3), in that he failed to record treatments given to greyhounds trained by him in his treatment book for the period 29 December 2021 to 5 September 2023. The job of the Stewards is made so much harder if trainers do not record treatments administered and when they occur. Mr Richardson has also pleaded guilty to that offence.
6. In assessing penalty on the presentation Charge, we take into account general deterrence and the importance of keeping a level playing field by having a drug free industry. We also take into account the guilty plea and the good record of Mr Richardson. In all the circumstances, we impose a fine of \$1,500, but suspend \$800 pending no further relevant offending in the next 24 months.
7. On the second Charge, we impose a fine of \$300.
8. In addition, Fireworks is disqualified from Race 12 at Warrnambool on 12 October 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal