

7 March 2024

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **ADELE POWELL**

- Date of hearing:** 28 February 2024
- Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Ms Adele Powell 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:**
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 “Bear Lee Crime”.
  3. Bear Lee Crime was nominated to compete in Race 10, LIKE GRVictoria ON FACEBOOK, Grade 7, conducted by the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club at Shepparton on 27 June 2023 (the Event).
  4. On 27 June 2023, you presented Bear Lee Crime at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Bear Lee Crime at the Event (the Sample);

(b) 2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulphoxide was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

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## **DECISION**

Ms Adele Powell is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GARs”). She has been licensed for approximately 40 years.

Ms Powell is the trainer of the greyhound “Bear Lee Crime”. Bear Lee Crime was nominated to compete in Race 10 at Shepparton on 27 June 2023. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from the greyhound and 2-(1-Hydroxyethyl) promazine sulphoxide was detected in the sample.

Ms Powell was charged with a presentation offence pursuant to GAR 141(1) and has pleaded guilty to the charge.

The GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, provided a report dated 11 September 2023 of the finding of 2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulphoxide, a metabolite of acepromazine. Dr Karamatic confirmed that acepromazine is a prohibited substance under the GARs. Acepromazine is placed in the category of therapeutic substances in the GRV Penalty Guidelines. He said that there were no products found during the kennel inspection that would be expected to contain acepromazine. Dr Karamatic said unfit for human consumption meat (Stanhope Knackery) is a potential source of acepromazine detected in a sample fed to greyhounds close to racing. Ms Powell did not detail the administration of acepromazine to any greyhound, which would be required if used.

Acepromazine is used in veterinary medicine as a sedative/tranquilizer and can produce side effects of significant reduction in blood pressure and changes in heart rate and high or low body temperature. Dr Karamatic said that acepromazine is capable of affecting the condition and performance of a greyhound, and any effect on performance is more likely to be negative.

Ms Powell stated that she feeds her greyhound knackery beef sourced from Stanhope Knackery, but has changed to kangaroo meat within three days of a greyhound’s race. She has primary responsibility for the greyhounds at her property and sole responsibility for preparing their feed. We accept that the feeding of knackery meat is the likely source of contamination.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account Ms Powell's early guilty plea, her cooperation with the Stewards and the importance of general and specific deterrence. We take into account her long history in the industry and the fact she has no prior convictions of a similar nature. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a fine of \$2,000, with \$1,000, wholly suspended for 24 months.

In addition, Bear Lee Crime is disqualified from Race 10 at Shepparton on 23 June 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

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Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal