

24 January 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

AIMEE DREW

- Date of hearing:** 16 January 2024
- Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr June Smith.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Ms Aimee Drew 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 “Zambora Charlie”.
 3. Zambora Charlie was nominated to compete in Race 8, TUDOR ELECTRICAL, Mixed 4/5, conducted by the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club at Ballarat on 29 March 2023 (the Event).
 4. On 29 March 2023, you presented Zambora Charlie at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A post-race sample of blood was taken from Zambora Charlie at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Ms Aimee Drew is a trainer licensed with Greyhound Racing Victoria and bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GARs”). She has been a trainer for approximately 3 years. She has been involved in the industry for many years, as her family are active participants. She is the trainer of the greyhound, “Zambora Charlie”.

Zambora Charlie was nominated to compete in Race 8 at Ballarat on 29 March 2023. The greyhound was presented for the event not free of any prohibited substance, given that a post-race sample of blood detected meloxicam. Ms Drew was charged with a presentation offence under GAR 141(1). Ms Drew has entered a plea of guilty to the charge.

The GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, provided a report dated 26 June 2023. He said that meloxicam is a prohibited substance as defined by the GARs and is capable of affecting the condition or performance of a greyhound, and any effect on performance is more likely to be positive, such as producing an artificial pain free state. Dr Karamatic reported that unfit for human consumption meat is a potential source of meloxicam if a greyhound is fed knackery meat. Dr Karamatic said that Notice to the industry was provided in August 2016, alerting participants to the potential risks of inadvertent positive swabs from the feeding of knackery meat. In July 2020, Greyhound Monthly Victoria emailed participants and published online warnings about feeding knackery meat to greyhounds.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account Ms Drew’s plea of guilty, her cooperation with the Stewards and the importance of special and general deterrence. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field and having a drug free industry. We take into account recent penalties in like matters.

We accept Ms Drew’s evidence that, as a result of this positive swab, she no longer feeds her greyhounds knackery meat. She feeds the dogs kangaroo and chicken meat. This is her first offence, and she was remorseful.

In all the circumstances, we impose a fine of \$1,500 of which \$500 is suspended for 24 months, pending no further breach of the Rules relative to prohibitive substances.

In addition, Zambora Charlie is disqualified from Race 8 at Ballarat on 29 March 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal