

22 January 2024

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **ANNE CARR**

- Date of hearing:** 12 January 2024
- Panel:** Justice Shane Marshall (Deputy Chairperson) and Mr Greg Childs.
- Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Malcolm Carr represented Ms Anne Carr.
- 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 “Big City Nights”.
  3. Big City Nights was nominated to compete in Race 8, HOOKED ON SCOTCH @ STUD (300+ RANK), Grade 5, conducted by the Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club at Traralgon on 27 March 2023 (the Event).
  4. On 27 March 2023, you presented Big City Nights at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Big City Nights at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Procaine was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

---

## **DECISION**

1. Ms Anne Carr is a registered greyhound trainer and has been a trainer for over 20 years. At all material times, she was the trainer of the greyhound, "Big City Nights".
2. Big City Nights competed in Race 8 at Traralgon on 27 March 2023. A pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound showed the presence of procaine. Procaine is a prohibited substance under the Rules of greyhound racing.
3. Stewards of Greyhound Racing Victoria ("GRV") have charged Ms Carr with an offence under Greyhounds Australasia Rule ("GAR") 141(1) for presenting a greyhound for an event while not free of a prohibited substance. Ms Carr pleaded guilty to the offence.
4. Procaine is an anaesthetic commonly given to horses and cattle prior to euthanasia. It is capable of affecting the condition and performance of a greyhound by inducing a pain free state. It is usually found in knackery meat fed to greyhounds. The industry regulator, GRV, has been warning trainers of the dangers of feeding knackery meat since at least 2016. However, many trainers persist in using knackery meat because of the expense involved in buying fit for human consumption meat.
5. According to GRV records, Ms Carr has been a trainer since July 2000. Until this positive swab, she was using knackery meat. She now feeds her greyhounds fit for human consumption meat only, usually kangaroo.
6. In setting a penalty, we take into account the early guilty plea and Ms Carr's excellent record. We also take into account general deterrence and the importance of keeping prohibited substances out of greyhound racing to assist with having a level playing field. We further take into account recent penalties in other procaine matters, although with concern that the message does not appear to be getting across to trainers that knackery meat should not be fed to racing greyhounds. Higher penalties have been foreshadowed by the Tribunal for some time and, in appropriate cases, will be handed down. This is not the case to do so and, in light of Ms Carr's excellent record and cooperation with the

Stewards, the usual 24 months operation of the suspended portion of the fine will be reduced to 12 months.

7. In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a \$2,000 fine, with \$1,000 suspended for a period of 12 months pending no further offences relating to prohibited substances in that time.
8. In addition, Big City Nights is disqualified from Race 8 at Traralgon on 27 March 2023 and the finishing order be amended accordingly.

---

Kathleen Scully  
Acting Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal