

30 May 2024

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **BRIAN SELLECK**

- Date of hearing:** 29 May 2024
- Date of decision:** 29 May 2024
- Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Heidi Keighran.
- Appearances:** Mr Timothy Brook appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Brian Selleck represented himself.
- 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 “Our Blue Haze”.
  3. Our Blue Haze was nominated to compete in Race 1, SPORTSBET GREEN TICKS, Maiden, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 25 June 2023 (the Event).

4. On 25 June 2023, you presented Our Blue Haze at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

(b) Ketoprofen was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

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## **DECISION**

Mr Brian Selleck is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules (“GARs”). He has been licensed for approximately 35 years.

Mr Selleck is the trainer of the greyhound, “Our Blue Haze”. Our Blue Haze was nominated to compete in Race 1 at Warragul on 25 June 2023. A post-race sample of urine was taken from the greyhound and ketoprofen was detected.

GRV have charged Mr Selleck with a presentation offence pursuant to GAR 141(1). Mr Selleck has pleaded guilty to the charge.

GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, stated in his report of 4 September 2023 that ketoprofen is a prohibited substance under the GARs and is placed in the category of therapeutic substances in GRV’s Penalty Guidelines. Ketoprofen can be, and is, used in veterinary medicine, including in the treatment of sick or lame cattle or horses. Therefore, the feeding of knackery meat is a risk of inadvertent exposure. Ketoprofen 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 artificially pain free state.

Mr Selleck’s treatment records did not detail the admission of ketoprofen to the greyhound. He feeds racing greyhounds human consumption beef that he purchases from a private seller and knackery meat to the yard dogs.

Mr Selleck had a positive swab in 2018, and since then he and his wife have adopted precautionary changes to their feeding regimes to avoid potential contamination. These changes included human consumption meat being fed to racing dogs and clear separation of the two meats. In addition, they store the knackery meat and human consumption meat in separate freezers. When in the fridge to thaw, they are made distinguishable by using lids on human consumption meat and plastic over the knackery meat. Mrs Selleck is responsible for

mixing the feeds and stated she mixes race dog feeds first, washes her hands thoroughly and wipes the bench before mixing the knackery meat for the non-race dogs so as to eliminate any chance of contamination.

No greyhounds treated in the kennel were treated for injury or illness leading up to the race. Mr Selleck said each greyhound has its own emptying yard and individually labelled food bowl.

Dr Karamatic was of the view that despite these precautions, the feeding of unfit for human consumption meat is the most likely cause of this positive sample. An error in the feeding of knackery meat or sharing of equipment (e.g. mincer or storage containers) are possible sources. He said that human consumption meat which complied with the Australian maximum residue limits allowed for ketoprofen would also be unlikely to cause this positive sample and the private supplier would be expected to comply with this and be required to declare the same when selling. Dr Karamatic said that participants in the industry have been alerted to the potential risk through publications of GRV's Feeding Medication and Supplements Guidelines published in 2016 and the July 2020 Greyhound Monthly Victoria, which was emailed to participants and published online.

We accept that contamination in the feeding preparation is the likely explanation for the positive swab. Mr Selleck pleaded guilty and co-operated throughout the investigation with the Stewards.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account his guilty plea, his co-operation with the Stewards and the importance of specific and general deterrence. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. We take into account penalties in like matters and that Mr Selleck has undergone substantial surgery at considerable expense. We note that this is Mr Selleck's second offence.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a fine of \$1,500, of which \$1,200 is wholly suspended for 24 months pending no further relevant breaches.

In addition, Our Blue Haze is disqualified from Race 1 at Warragul on 25 June 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

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Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal