

7 October 2024

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **CAMERON HUDSON**

- Date of hearing:** 2 October 2024
- Date of decision:** 2 October 2024
- Panel:** Judge Marilyn Harbison (Deputy Chairperson) and Mr Greg Childs.
- Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Cameron Hudson 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 “Elite Patty”.
  3. Elite Patty was nominated to compete in Race 12, SPORTSBET WE LET THE DOGS OUT, Grade 5 T3, conducted by the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club at Ballarat on 18 September 2023 (the Event).

4. On 18 September 2023, you presented Elite Patty at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “Elite Patty” at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Amphetamine, Methamphetamine and 4-Hydroxymethamphetamine were detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

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## **DECISION**

1. Mr Cameron Hudson is charged with one offence. It is a charge that he presented his greyhound, “Elite Patty”, in Race 12 at Ballarat on 18 September 2023 when the greyhound was not free of prohibited substances, namely amphetamine, methamphetamine and 4-hydroxymethamphetamine. These substances were detected in a pre-race sample of urine taken from the dog and tested by Racing Analytical Services Limited (“RASL”). The detection was also confirmed in a referee sample tested in Sydney.
2. Mr Hudson told the Stewards that he was very careful with what he gave the dogs and, in particular, that he does not feed knackery meat. This has been so since he was charged with a presentation offence in 2023, which was heard by this Tribunal earlier this year. He was now aware that prohibited substances may be traced back to the use of knackery meat.
3. The Stewards were unable to find anything on his property that contained amphetamine or its metabolites. Mr Hudson was unable to offer any explanation as to how this substance had come to be in his dog. He is the only one who looks after his greyhounds. Mr Hudson had been on a community corrections order for some time. It is a condition of that order that he submit to random drug testing. He told us that he would not risk breaching that order by taking drugs, and so is perplexed about the source of the amphetamines that were found in his dog.
4. Mr Hudson has been a greyhound trainer for over 20 years. He has had a very good record within the industry up until early this year when he was convicted of presenting a dog with arsenic in its system – the offence to which we have referred above. On that occasion, the arsenic had been ingested by the dog chewing a fence post. For that offence,

Mr Hudson received a period of six months suspension, with five months of that suspended for 24 months.

5. Mr Hudson presently is unemployed because he has a back injury. He is therefore on a government pension. He has four greyhounds in work and four on the waiting list for the Greyhound Adoption Program. As a result of the penalty we are to impose today, he will not be able to work in the greyhound industry for some time. He currently lives with his parents and is aged 48 years.
6. Amphetamine and its metabolites are permanently banned prohibited substances. The finding of these substances in the dog is therefore a very serious matter. There are no human or animal therapeutic substances which contain this drug. The only purpose of using this drug is illegally to increase performance in humans or animals.
7. An out of competition urine sample was taken by the Stewards from Elite Patty on 26 October 2023. Amphetamines were not detected in that sample. We take this as an indication that there is little risk that there will be any such illegal drugs in his dogs in the future.
8. Mr Hudson was extremely cooperative with the Stewards and has pleaded guilty to this charge. The Stewards called for a significant period of disqualification and a fine. We are persuaded that Mr Hudson's financial circumstances are such that he could not afford to pay any fine imposed. We intend instead to order a significant period of disqualification to reflect the seriousness of this offending. We do so in the knowledge that this will significantly affect his life as his dogs are his life, and he has no other prospect of earning income during the period of disqualification.
9. The sentence which we impose is therefore as follows. On the charge of presenting the dog not free of a permanently prohibited substance, we order that Mr Hudson be disqualified for a period of 10 months, with that disqualification commencing today.
10. The Stewards submitted that the current offence triggers the activation of the five month suspended suspension in relation to Mr Hudson's previous presentation offence relating to arsenic. We order that this offence be deemed not to reactivate the suspended suspension imposed in respect of the arsenic matter.

11. In addition, Elite Patty is disqualified from Race 12 at Ballarat on 18 September 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.
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Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal