

7 March 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

CAMERON HUDSON

- 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.
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 “Amy Jay”.
 3. Amy Jay was nominated to compete in Race 11, FREE ADMISSION TO ALL RACE MEETS (300+), Grade 6, conducted by the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club at Geelong on 22 August 2023 (the Event).
 4. On 22 August 2023, you presented Amy Jay at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Amy Jay at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Arsenic was detected at a mass concentration of greater than 800 nanograms per millilitre in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Mr Cameron Hudson is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and is bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules (“GARs”). He has been licensed for approximately 20 years.

Mr Hudson is the trainer of the greyhound, “Amy Jay”. Amy Jay was nominated to compete in Race 11 conducted at Geelong on 22 August 2023. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from the greyhound. Arsenic was detected at a mass concentration greater than the allowable threshold. Mr Hudson was charged with a presentation offence pursuant to GAR 141(1). He has pleaded guilty to the charge.

The GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, provided a report dated 5 October 2023. Arsenic is a general tissue poison and in sufficient doses can cause highly fatal gastroenteritis or nervous signs such as convulsions. Dr Karamatic said that arsenic is placed in the category of stimulants, depressants and other prohibited substances in the GRV Penalty Guidelines. He said that there were no products found during the kennel inspection that would be expected to contain arsenic in sufficient amounts to cause a breach of the threshold. Dr Karamatic referred to the many Notices to the Industry in June and July 2016, March 2017, May 2018 and September 2020, warning participants that the likely reason for arsenic urinary threshold breaches was the chewing of the pine posts.

Mr Hudson advised that the only possible explanation for the presence of arsenic could be that the greyhound chewed the pine post in her kennel. This was confirmed by Steward, Ms Lee Fahry, at the inspection on 18 August 2023. As a result of the positive swab, a solid plastic covering has been installed over the posts to prevent the greyhound from chewing the posts. In addition, the greyhounds known to be chewers now wear muzzles.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account Mr Hudson’s guilty plea, his cooperation with the Stewards, the installation of plastic covering over the posts and the introduction of muzzles on some of the dogs known to be chewers. We also take into account 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. We also take into account Mr Hudson's excellent record.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of six months suspension of which five months be suspended for 24 months.

In addition, Amy Jay is disqualified from Race 11 at Geelong on 22 August 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal