

1 February 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

DEBBIE GOUDGE

- Date of hearing:** 4 December 2023
- Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson) and Mr Josh Bornstein.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Ms Debbie Goudge 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.
- GAR 151(1) states:
(1) The person in charge of a greyhound must keep and retain written records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and treatments administered to the greyhound:
(a) from the time the greyhound enters their care until the greyhound leaves their care; and
(b) for a minimum of two years
- Particulars:** **Charge 1: GAR 141(1)**
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 "*Solar Tigress*".

3. "*Solar Tigress*" was nominated to compete in Race 10, BROAD TREE CARE (275+RANK), Grade 6, conducted by the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club at Warrnambool on 12 June 2023 (**the Event**).

4. On 12 June 2023, you presented "*Solar Tigress*" at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

- (a) A post-race sample of blood was taken from "*Solar Tigress*" at the Event (**the Sample**);
- (b) Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

Charge 2: GAR 151(1)

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Racing Victoria Rules of Racing.

2. On 18 July 2023, you failed to produce treatment records for inspection that met the minimum requirements, upon request from GRV Steward Lee Fahry, a person authorised by the Controlling Body, for greyhounds for which you were the responsible person at the relevant time.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Ms Debbie Goudge, you are pleading guilty to two charges. Charge 1 is pursuant to GAR 141(1). It relates to a post-race return positive to the prohibited substance Meloxicam, the return being from Solar Tigress, trained by you, which dog competed in Race 10 at Warrnambool on 12 June 2023.

Charge 2 is a breach of GAR 151 and concerns inadequate record keeping.

Dealing firstly with Charge 1, Solar Tigress in fact won the race, paying \$41.20. You did not back it.

As stated by Dr Stephen Karamatic, the effect of Meloxicam is more likely to be positive.

It would appear that the most likely source of the Meloxicam was meat not fit for human consumption which was purchased by you from an establishment in South Geelong. You have ceased so doing. You were in the habit of doing this, at least from time to time, but did not feed such meat to your dogs within two days of their racing. That is not a recommended safeguard. The only real guarantee is not to use knacker meat.

In recent matter of GRV v Anne Carr, Justice Marshall expressed some concern in relation to the level of penalties and the ongoing use of knacker meat. We echo those statements.

We are not of the view that this is an appropriate case for a penalty in excess of what could be described as the usual range. However, a warning has now been issued.

We take into account your excellent record over many years. We note the important role that the greyhounds play in your life, particularly as you have ceased, or are ceasing, your employment as a care worker.

In all the circumstances, we fix the penalty at \$1,500 with \$500 suspended for 12 months. That will only be activated in the very unlikely event that you commit a relevant offence during that period.

In relation to Charge 2, we bear in mind that apparently your moving of premises played some role in your failing to keep appropriate records. Considering all the circumstances, we are of the view that a fine of \$300 is warranted.

Thus, the bottom line is on Charge 1 there is a fine of \$1,500, but with \$500 suspended for 1 year.

On Charge 2, you are fined \$300.

In addition, Solar Tigress is disqualified from Race 10 at Warrnambool on 12 June 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal