

30 May 2024

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **EBONY DEGLAITIS**

- Date of hearing:** 22 May 2024
- Date of decision:** 22 May 2024
- Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Ms Ebony Deglaitis 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.
- 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 “She Devil”.
  3. She Devil was nominated to compete in Race 8, MEPUNGA CRUZER @ STUD, Mixed 4/5, conducted by the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club at Warrnambool on 5 October 2023 (the Event).

4. On 5 October 2023, you presented She Devil at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

(b) Ketoprofen was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

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## **DECISION**

Ms Ebony Deglaitis is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and a person bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules (“GARs”). She has been licensed for approximately 12 years.

Ms Deglaitis is the trainer of the greyhound, “She Devil”. She Devil was nominated to compete in Race 8 at Warrnambool on 5 October 2023 and was presented at the event not free of a prohibited substance. A pre-race sample of urine taken from the greyhound proved positive to ketoprofen.

GRV have charged Ms Deglaitis with a presentation offence pursuant to GAR 141(1) and she has pleaded guilty to the charge.

GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, stated in his report of 7 December 2023 that ketoprofen is a prohibited substance and is placed in the therapeutic substances category. He also stated that ketoprofen is capable of affecting the condition or performance of a greyhound and any effect on performance is more likely to be positive by producing an artificially pain free state.

There were no products found during the kennel inspection that would be expected to contain ketoprofen. Unfit for human consumption meat, commonly referred to as knackery meat, was fed to the greyhound and is the most likely cause of this positive sample. The treatment records did not disclose administration of ketoprofen to the greyhound, which recording would be required if used. Ketoprofen can be ingested and is used in veterinarian medicine. GRV’s Feeding, Medication and Supplements Guidelines published in August 2016 and linked to the GRV website alerts participants to the potential risks of inadvertent positive swabs from the feeding of knackery meat.

Ms Deglaitis pleaded guilty to the charge at an early stage and has cooperated throughout the investigation with the Stewards. Ms Deglaitis said she fed the dogs knackery meat however, since the positive swab, now feeds fit for human consumption meat. She is veterinarian nurse and is seeking professional development around aspects of nutrition for greyhounds.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account her guilty plea, her 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. We note that this is Ms Deglaitis' first offence. We acknowledge the submissions of the Stewards in relation to penalty.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a fine of \$1,500 with \$1,000 suspended for 24 months.

In addition, She Devil is disqualified from Race 8 at Warrnambool on 5 October 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

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Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal