

25 September 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

GARRY SELKRIG

- Date of hearing:** 24 September 2024
- Date of decision:** 24 September 2024
- Panel:** Judge Marilyn Harbison (Deputy Chairperson) and Mr Greg Childs.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr Garry Selkrig did not attend the hearing.
- Charges:** 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 "Short and Stumpy".
3. Short and Stumpy was nominated to compete in Race 2, SHIMA SHINE AT STUD, Maiden, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 15 September 2023 (the Event).
4. On 15 September 2023, you presented Short and Stumpy at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
 - (a) A post-race sample of urine was taken from Short and Stumpy at the Event (the Sample);
 - (b) Metformin 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. You were at all relevant times the Trainer of the greyhound "Short and Stumpy".
3. On or around 26 July 2023, you administered a treatment, namely "Orabolin" tablets, to Short and Stumpy.
4. The Treatment was not recorded in your treatment records when you produced them to GRV Stewards James Jeffery and Catherine Scarlett upon their request.

5. The Treatment is required to be recorded in your treatment records.

Charge 3: 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. You were at all relevant times the Trainer of the greyhound "Short and Stumpy".

3. During 2023, you administered a treatment, namely antibiotics, to Short and Stumpy (the Treatment).

4. The Treatment was not recorded in your treatment records when you produced them to GRV Stewards James Jeffery and Catherine Scarlett upon their request.

5. The Treatment is required to be recorded in your treatment records.

Pleas: Guilty

DECISION

1. Mr Gary Selkrig is a greyhound trainer and owner. He faces three charges. Charge 1 is that he presented his greyhound, "Short and Stumpy", to race at Warragul on the 15 September 2023 when the greyhound was not free of a prohibited substance, namely metformin.
2. Charge 2 is that he administered a treatment to this greyhound, or another greyhound owned by him by the name of "Invictus Sharon" but did not record that treatment in his treatment records. The treatment in relation to this charge was Orabolin tablets.
3. Charge 3 is a further charge that he administered a treatment to this greyhound or to Invictus Sharon but did not record that treatment in his treatment records. The treatment in relation to this charge was antibiotics.

4. A post-race sample of urine was taken from Short and Stumpy on 15 September 2023. Metformin was detected in the sample.
5. Metformin is prohibited under the Rules. There are no veterinary medicines which contain this substance, but there are many human registered products which do. It is used to lower blood glucose levels, and so is a common treatment in type 2 diabetes in humans. All are prescription only medicines. If this substance was used in a dog, it would be expected to reduce blood glucose, thereby reducing performance of the dog. In some circumstances it may have a positive effect on performance.
6. Mr Selkrig had been prescribed one such medication, “Metformin Sandoz”, to manage his medical condition of diabetes and heart issues. He took half a tablet of this medication at 6:30 am every day. He did not wash his hands after doing so.
7. Participants have been on notice for many years of the dangers of unwittingly transferring personal medication to dogs. It appears that this is what has happened in this case.
8. The Stewards advised Mr Selkrig of the positive sample on 24 October 2023. He told the Stewards that he thought it may have been detected as he had taken his medication on the day of the race. On that day, Mr Selkrig also told Stewards that he had administered Orabolin tablets and antibiotics to Short and Stumpy. He had not noted the administration of either of these drugs in the treatment records of his dog.
9. On 20 February 2024, the Stewards conducted an inquiry with Mr Selkrig. During that inquiry, he admitted that he did not wash his hands after taking his medication, and also admitted that he had administered Orabolin and antibiotics to his dog. He said it was just something that he forgot to record.
10. At the hearing before us, the Stewards agreed to remove the allegations in Charges 2 and 3 relating to Invictus Sharon, given that the charges are put in the alternative. We have proceeded to sentence him on the basis that each of Charges 2 and 3 relate to only Short and Stumpy.
11. Mr Selkrig notified the Registry that he pleads guilty to these charges and does not intend to appear at the hearing. We know little of his personal circumstances.
12. Mr Selkrig is 68 years old. He has been an owner and a public trainer since at least 1978 – a period of over 46 years. He has been frank and cooperative with the Stewards. He comes before us with no prior offences, although he has subsequently been disqualified for a period of 12 years in circumstances which are not relevant to penalty. As a result of this disqualification and his age, we understand that he has now left the industry permanently.

13. In relation to Charges 2 and 3, we note that he is only facing these charges because he volunteered to the Stewards that he had administered the medication.
 14. We accept that in sentencing Mr Selkrig today, we must deter others from committing offences of this kind, in order to achieve a level playing field in the industry and to protect the reputation of the industry. We also accept that there is a need to impose sentences consistent with those imposed for like offences.
 15. Taking all the circumstances into account the penalties which we impose are as follows:

Charge 1: \$500 fine.

Charge 2: \$250 fine which is fully suspended for 12 months pending no further relevant offences.

Charge 3: \$250 fine which is fully suspended for 12 months pending no further relevant offences.
 16. In addition, Short and Stumpy is disqualified from Race 2 at Warragul on 15 September 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.
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Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal