

28 August 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

IAN ROBINSON

Date of hearing: 14 August 2024

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Panel: Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.

Appearances: Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr Ian Robinson represented herself.

Charge: Greyhounds Australasia Rule ("GAR") 141(1) states:

Greyhound to be free of prohibited substances

(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 "Dunach Fireball".

3. “Dunach Fireball” was nominated to compete in Race 4, GREAT CHASE (1-5 WINS) HT15, Special Event, conducted by the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club at Ballarat on 4 October 2023 (**the Event**).

4. On 4 October 2023, you presented “Dunach Fireball” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

- (a) A post-race sample of blood was taken from “Dunach Fireball” at the Event (**the Sample**);
- (b) Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Mr Ian Robinson is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules. He has been a licensed trainer for approximately 45 years. He was the trainer of Dunach Fireball. Dunach Fireball was nominated to compete in Race 4 at Ballarat on 4 October 2023.

On 4 October 2023 Mr Robinson presented Dunach Fireball not free of any prohibited substance. A post-race sample of blood was taken from Dunach Fireball and Meloxicam was detected in the sample.

Mr Robinson was charged with a presentation offence under GAR 141(1) for presenting Dunach Fireball for an event while not free of a prohibited substance. Mr Robinson pleaded guilty to the charge.

The GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, in a report date 11 December 2023 said that Meloxicam is a prohibited substance defined by the Greyhound Australasia Rules. Meloxicam is placed in the category Therapeutic Substances. Further, meloxicam is capable of affecting the condition or performance of a greyhound and any effect on performance is more likely to be positive.

There was a product found during the kennel inspection that would contain Meloxicam, which was prescribed for another greyhound, Pyrenees Prince who was recovering from a fracture repair. Dr Karamatic said Mr Robinson suggested possible explanations for the greyhound being exposed to Meloxicam which were all possible, being a mix up with feeds, exposure to urine from the treated greyhound and knackery meat.

Dr Karamatic said that unfit for human consumption meat (Whitey's Pet Food) is a possible source of Meloxicam if fed to a greyhound close to racing, as in this case. Further, Meloxicam is capable of affecting the condition or performance of a greyhound and any effect on performance is more likely to be positive producing an artificially pain free state.

Urine sample R001806 was collected on the same day as the B sample. Meloxicam was not detected in the urine but was found in the blood sample. Dr Karamatic said that it is not unexpected that different sample matrices produce different results. Despite the result of this urine sample, the determination of Meloxicam in a blood sample confirms that the greyhound was presented not free of a prohibited substance. We accept that the feeding of knackery meat is the likely cause.

In imposing a penalty, we take into account Mr Robinson's co-operation with the Stewards, and the importance of general and specific deterrence. We take into account his long history in the industry. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. In addition, we take into account the Stewards submissions in relation to penalty.

Mr Robinson has been in the industry for many years. This is his second offence. Mr Robinson's first offence was heard and determined on 20 September 2022. In relation to that offence he was fined as follows:

Charge 1, \$1,000 with \$500 suspended for 24 months, and on Charge 2, \$1,500 with \$800 suspended for 24 months.

As a result of the current offence, the fine imposed on 20 September in relation to that offence is activated. As a result, Mr Robinson has \$1,300 to pay from the hearing on 20 September 2022.

In relation to the charge on 14 October 2023, the current charge, we impose a fine of \$1,500 with \$500 suspended for 24 months, and a 4 month suspension, wholly suspended for 24 months.

Dunach Fireball is disqualified from Race 4 at Ballarat on 4 October 2023, and the finishing order is amended accordingly. In addition, Dunach Fireball is also disqualified from Race 8 at the Meadows on 11 October 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal