

30 May 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

INDIAH GUY

- 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 Indiah Guy 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 “Unknown Ability”.
 3. Unknown Ability was nominated to compete in Race 9, AVARD CIVIL, Free For All, conducted by the Bendigo Greyhound Racing Association at Bendigo on 29 September 2023 (the Event).

4. On 29 September 2023, you presented Unknown Ability at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

(b) Theobromine was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Ms Indiah Guy is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules (“GARs”). She has been licensed for approximately seven years.

Ms Guy is the trainer of the greyhound, “Unknown Ability”. Unknown Ability was nominated to compete in Race 9 at Bendigo on 29 September 2023 and was presented at the event not free of a prohibited substance. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from the greyhound and theobromine was detected in the sample.

GRV have charged Ms Guy 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 16 November 2023 that theobromine is a metabolite of caffeine and is a prohibited substance under the GARs. It is placed in the category of stimulants, depressants, and other prohibited substances of the GRV Penalty Guidelines. Dr Karamatic stated that there are zero pesticides and medicines containing theobromine. Products, such as chocolate and coffee, are products that contain theobromine. It is known to improve performance in greyhounds and is capable of affecting the condition, behaviour or performance of a greyhound. Dr Karamatic said that participants in the industry have been alerted to the potential risk through publications of the GRV Feeding Medication Guidelines published in 2016 and July 2020.

Ms Guy could not identify the source of the substance. She said that the greyhound was transported to the race in her father’s work van. The greyhound may have eaten chocolate when in the vehicle. Ms Guy could only offer contamination from coconut water as an explanation. During the interview process, she described using coconut water to rehydrate the greyhound after travel. Ms Guy indicated that she would change brands, depending on price. There were no products found during the kennel inspection that would be expected to

contain theobromine. Further, the treatment records made available did not detail the administration of theobromine.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account Ms Guy's early 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 this is Ms Guy's first offence. We acknowledge the submissions of the Stewards in relation to penalty.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of four months suspension, which is wholly suspended for 24 months and a fine of \$500.

In addition, Unknown Ability is disqualified from Race 9 at Bendigo on 29 September 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal