

28 August 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

KATE JACKSON

Date of hearing: 6 March 2024

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Panel: Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr June Smith.

Appearances: Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Ms Kate Jackson 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 "Siala Giblet".

3. *"Siala Giblet"* was nominated to compete in Race 10, THE WATCHDOG APP, Grade 5 T3, conducted by The Meadows Greyhound Racing Club at The Meadows on 12 July 2023 (**the Event**).

4. On 12 July 2023, you presented *"Siala Giblet"* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

- (a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from *"Siala Giblet"* at the Event (**the Sample**);
- (b) Dexamethasone was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Ms Kate Jackson is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules of Racing. She has been licensed for 18 years and a trainer for 8 years.

She is the trainer of the greyhound Siala Giblet. Siala Giblet was nominated to compete in Race 10 on 12 July 2023 at The Meadows.

On 12 July 2023, Siala Giblet was presented at the event not free of any prohibited substance, given that a pre-race sample of urine was taken from Siala Giblet at the event and Dexamethasone was detected.

Ms Jackson was charged with a presentation offence under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141 (1) with presenting Siala Giblet for an event while not free of a prohibited substance.

Ms Jackson pleaded guilty to the charge.

The Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic provided a report dated 5 October 2023 of the finding of the prohibited substance Dexamethasone in urine sample V 802651. He confirmed that Dexamethasone is defined as a prohibited substance under the Greyhound Victoria Penalty Guidelines. Dexamethasone is placed in the category "Therapeutic Substances". He said that Dexamethasone is capable of affecting the condition, behaviour or performance of a greyhound, and any effect on performance is more likely to be positive by producing an artificially pain free state.

Dr Karamatic said that unfit for human consumption meat is the most likely potential source of inadvertent exposure to Dexamethasone. Knackery meat was present at the property but is not fed to race dogs. Human consumption beef fat or human consumption chicken or pet shop sourced kangaroo meat are fed to race dogs. Further, the treatment records provided for review did not detail the admission of any Dexamethasone to this greyhound. Dr Karamatic referred to the Industry Notices forwarded to participants in August 2016 and July 2020 alerting participants to the risks of feeding knackery meat to greyhounds.

Ms Jackson said that the only explanation for the substance found in the sample could be a cross contamination of knackery meat between race dogs and pups on the property. Usually she and her partner feed the dogs at the same time. At the time, she was unwell with flu and her husband had returned from hospital.

We accept that inadvertent feeding of knackery meat is the likely source of the contamination. Ms Jackson has recently pleaded guilty and has co-operated with the Stewards throughout the investigation.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account her guilty plea, her co-operation with the Stewards and the importance of general and specific deterrence. We take into account her relatively long history in the industry and that she has no prior convictions of a similar nature.

We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. We take into account the Stewards submissions in relation to penalty.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a fine of \$1,500. Siala Giblett is disqualified from Race 10 at The Meadows on 12 July 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal