

2 July 2024

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **PATRICK BULL**

- Date of hearing:** 19 June 2024
- Date of decision:** 19 June 2024
- Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.
- Appearances:** Mr Timothy Brook appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Mr Patrick Bull represented himself.
- 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 "Milski".
  3. Milski was nominated to compete in Race 4, MONTROSE IGA LIQUOR, Grade 5 T3, conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Association at Healesville on 22 September 2023 (the Event).

4. On 22 September 2023, you presented Milski at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

(b) Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

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## **DECISION**

Mr Patrick Bull is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”). Mr Bull has been licensed for many years.

At all relevant times Mr Bull was the trainer of the greyhound, “Milski”. The greyhound was nominated to compete in Race 4 at Healesville on 22 September 2023. The greyhound was presented to the event not free of a prohibited substance. A pre-race urine sample detected the presence of meloxicam.

In a report dated 16 January 2024, Dr Steven Karamatic, the Chief Veterinarian of GRV, confirmed that meloxicam is a prohibited substance and is capable of affecting the nervous, digestive the musculo-skeletal and urinary system of a greyhound. Meloxicam is placed in the category of therapeutic substances under the GRV Penalty Guidelines. Dr Karamatic said that meloxicam is capable of affecting the condition and performance of a greyhound and any effect on performance is more likely to be positive.

There were no products listed in the Swab Irregularity Report found during the kennel inspection that would contain meloxicam. However, there was personal medication produced during the inspection that would contain meloxicam, being Mobic 15mg capsules prescribed to “A Bull”. Dr Karamatic reported that the Mobic tablets were a potential source of this positive sample.

Dr Karamatic said that the industry had been notified in 2016 and 2020 of the possibility of cross-contamination when participants use personal medications. It was important that participants wash their hands thoroughly after handling personal medications.

The Tribunal accepts that the personal medication is the likely source of the contamination. Mr Bull informed the Tribunal that he rarely uses the medication. It was used by his partner.

In imposing a penalty, we take into account his plea of guilty, his 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 the submissions of the Stewards in relation to penalty.

We also take into account Mr Bull's long history in the industry. Mr Bull has a prior conviction of a similar nature. That offence was in relation to caffeine and occurred in April 2022. This Tribunal heard and determined that offence on 11 January 2023 and imposed a penalty of a three month suspension, wholly suspended for 24 months "pending no further breach of a provision of the Rules dealing with prohibited substances in that time". Unfortunately for Mr Bull, this current offence was committed during the suspended period. As a result, the current offence triggers the activation of that the three month suspension and that the suspension is to commence immediately.

Further, a penalty of a \$300 fine is imposed.

In addition, Milski is disqualified from Race 4 at Healesville on 22 September 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

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Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal