

30 May 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

SHELLY ANNE WARDE

- Date of hearing:** 28 May 2024
- Date of decision:** 28 May 2024
- Panel:** Judge Marilyn Harbison (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Judy Bourke.
- Appearances:** Mr Tim Brook appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Ms Shelly Anne Warde 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 "Gutherson".

3. *"Gutherson"* was nominated to compete in Race 8, STRAIGHT RACING....GREAT RACING, Grade 5 T3, conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Association at Healesville on 16 December 2022 (**the Event**).

4. On 16 December 2022, you presented *"Gutherson"* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

1. Ms Shelly Ann Warde faces one charge before this Tribunal. It is a presentation offence. It is alleged that on 16 December 2022 she presented a greyhound named Gutherson for a race at Healesville when it was not free of a prohibited substance. The substance that was detected was procaine and it was detected in a pre-race sample of urine.
2. She was at that time the registered trainer of Gutherson. She has been a greyhound owner since 2014, an attendant after that time, and a public trainer since November of 2019.
3. There are six veterinary medicines containing procaine which are available for use in dogs. All of these medicines must be obtained and administered on prescription by a veterinary surgeon. There are also three human registered products which contain procaine. Procaine is a local anaesthetic. It is not known to affect the performance of a greyhound.
4. Ms Warde sourced her meat from the Stanhope knackery. Knackery meats often contain a residue of prescription medication, prescribed for both humans and animals. The most likely source of the procaine is therefore from the knackery meat given by Ms Warde to her dog. She told the Stewards that she did not have any prescription medications containing procaine and that it had not been prescribed for anyone in her household.
5. In sentencing Ms Warde, we take into account her guilty plea and also the fact that she has committed no prior offences. It is important in sentencing her to signal to the industry that participants who use knackery meat risk the unintended ingestion of prohibited

substances by their dogs. In this case Ms Warde was clearly aware of the risks of using knackery meat and decided to take that course anyway, because it was cheaper.

6. Taking into account all the circumstances we find Ms Warde the sum of \$1,500, with \$1,000 of that amount suspended for 24 months pending no further breach of the relevant Rule.
7. Gutherson is disqualified from the Race on 16 December 2022 and the placings are amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal