

24 January 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

TIM BRITTON

- Date of hearing:** 16 January 2024
- Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson).
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr Tim Britton 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 “Colden Mandella”.
 3. Colden Mandella was nominated to compete in Race 9, GREYHOUND CLUBS VICTORIA, Mixed 3/7, conducted by the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club at Geelong on 16 June 2023 (the Event).
 4. On 16 June 2023, you presented Colden Mandella at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A post-race sample of blood was taken from Colden Mandella at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Carprofen was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Mr Tim Britton is a trainer licensed with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and is bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GARs”). He has been licensed as a trainer for approximately five years. He is the trainer of the greyhound, “Colden Mandella”.

Colden Mandella was nominated to compete in Race 9 conducted by the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club at Geelong on 16 June 2023. The greyhound was presented at the event not free of any prohibited substance, given that a post-race sample of blood detected carprofen. Mr Britton has been charged with a presentation offence under GAR 141(1). He has pleaded guilty to the charge.

The GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, provided a report dated 4 September 2023. Dr Karamatic said a product containing carprofen was found during the kennel inspection. Treatment records were not made available for his review, but carprofen would need to be recorded if given to a greyhound.

Mr Britton’s evidence was that carprofen was administered to other greyhounds on his property, but not to Colden Mandella. He said that the use of carprofen on Colden Mandella could only be inadvertent. Mr Britton was in Queensland at the time, returning after the meeting on 16 June 2023. His evidence was that another greyhound in his care had acidosis and was on carprofen at the time and was not eating. Her food was returned to the fridge and when Colden Mandella was fed at night, it was given the wrong meal.

Mr Britton is 33 years old. His family have been involved in greyhound racing and he trained greyhounds in America. He recently relocated to Queensland.

Mr Britton pleaded guilty and has cooperated throughout the investigation. In imposing a penalty, I have taken into account his guilty plea, his cooperation with the Stewards and the importance of specific and general deterrence. I also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. I take into account recent penalties in like matters. I accept Mr Britton’s evidence that this was inadvertent. This is his first offence.

In all the circumstances, I impose a penalty of a fine of \$1,000 with \$500 being suspended for 24 months, pending no further breaches of Rules relating to prohibited substances.

Colden Mandella is disqualified from Race 9 at Geelong on 16 June 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal