

10 September 2024

DECISION

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

and

VINCENT DAFFY

- Date of hearing:** 5 September 2024
- Date of decision:** 5 September 2024
- Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.
Mr Vincent Daffy 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 “Vinnie’s Camel”.
 3. Vinnie’s Camel was nominated to compete in Race 3, SURFACE CO, Tier 3 – Grade 7, conducted by the Traralgon Greyhound Racing Club at Traralgon on 20 November 2023 (the Event).

4. On 20 November 2023, you presented Vinnie's Camel at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Vinnie's Camel at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Salbutamol was detected in the Sample.

Plea: Guilty

DECISION

Mr Vincent Daffy is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria ("GRV") and bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules ("GAR"). He has been licensed for approximately seven years.

Mr Daffy is the trainer of the greyhound, "Vinnie Camel". Vinnie Camel was nominated to compete in Race 3 at Traralgon on 20 November 2023. The greyhound was presented at the event not free of any prohibited substance, given that a pre-race sample of urine taken from the greyhound detected the presence of salbutamol.

Thus, Mr Daffy was charged with a presentation offence pursuant to GAR 141(1) on account of presenting Vinnie Camel for an event while not free of a prohibited substance. Mr Daffy pleaded guilty to the charge.

In a report dated 13 March 2024, GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, confirmed that salbutamol is a prohibited substance under the GAR and is placed in the category of stimulants, depressants and other prohibited substances. Currently, there are no Australian Pesticides and Veterinarian Medical Authority registered products that contain salbutamol. There are human consumption products that contain salbutamol, with the most common being the asthma inhaler containing Ventolin. Dr Karamatic said that salbutamol is capable of affecting the condition and performance of a greyhound and that any effect on performance is more likely to be positive.

Mr Daffy said that his wife uses a Ventolin inhaler on occasions. He accepted that it is the most likely cause of the positive swab, as she may have fed the greyhound without washing her hands after using her inhaler.

In imposing a penalty, we have taken into account Mr Daffy's guilty plea, his cooperation with the Stewards and the importance of 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 that Mr Daffy has no prior convictions.

We accept the submissions of the Stewards in relation to penalty and, in all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a six month suspension wholly suspended for 12 months pending no further relevant offences during that time.

In addition, Vinnie Camel is disqualified from Race 3 at Traralgon on 20 November 2023 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal