15 October 2020

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**MS AMANDA SCOTT**

**Date of hearing:** 7 October 2020

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson) and Mr Greg Childs.

**Appearances:** Mr Liam Bourke appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Ms Amanda Scott represented herself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 83(2) states:

The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-

1. nominated to compete in an Event;
2. presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
3. presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revoked

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

**Particulars of charge:** 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 “*Line Seeker*”.

3. “*Line Seeker*” was nominated to compete in, Race 5, RAM LOCKSMITH, Mixed 6/7, conducted by the Cranbourne Greyhound Racing Club at Cranbourne on 27 February 2020 (**the Event**).

4. On 27 February 2020, you presented “*Line Seeker*” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

1. A post-race sample of blood was taken from “*Line Seeker*” at the Event (**the Sample**);
2. Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Ms Amanda Scott, you have pleaded “guilty” to a breach of Greyhound Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2). You are the trainer of “Line Seeker”, which won Race 5 at Cranbourne on 27 February 2020. A post-race swab revealed the presence of the prohibited substance, Meloxicam.

Meloxicam is a substance which can have a positive effect upon a greyhound’s performance. It is used in the treatment of sick cattle and horses and can show up in greyhound swabs after they eat the meat of an animal that has been treated with Meloxicam. Such meat is usually knackery meat.

In August 2016, Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) introduced feeding guidelines, pointing to the risks associated with feeding to greyhounds knackery meat that is unfit for human consumption. There have been a number of such cases since and participants in the industry should now be on full alert.

You were using knackery meat. The Tribunal accepts that it was the most likely cause of the positive swab and the Stewards do not suggest otherwise.

You have pleaded guilty and we find the charge proven. We note that you have changed the meat that you feed your greyhounds. You now use kangaroo meat.

We also note that you have a very good record. You train a small number of dogs for your parents. You have a great love of the greyhound industry and acted as a catcher for many years. We take those matters into account.

The Stewards have sought a penalty of a fine of $1,500, with $1,000 suspended for a period of 12 months. That seems to us to be appropriate and in line with penalties handed down in similar cases. It is the penalty that we impose.

We would also repeat the warning given in the case of Lyn Smith on 6 December 2019. The industry has been on alert about knackery meat since 2016. We have no doubt but that you have learned the lesson that knackery meat is to be avoided. Unfortunately, there is an additional impost for you in that Line Seeker, which won, is disqualified from Race 5 at Cranbourne on 27 February 2020.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal