13 April 2022

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**AREND GRINGHUIS**

**Date of hearing:** 29 March 2022

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson) and Mr Josh Bornstein.

**Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Arend Gringhuis represented himself.

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

(2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound –

(a) Nominated to compete in an Event;

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance

**Particulars of charge:** 1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) (Member No. 3502) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”) and Local Racing Rules (“LR”).

2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of greyhound “Eilish’s Dream” (VINKU).

3. Eilish’s Dream was nominated to compete in Race 9 conducted by the Healesville Greyhound Racing Association at Healesville on 28 May 2021 (the Event).

4. On 28 May 2021, you presented Eilish’s Dream at the Event not free of any prohibited substance given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Eilish’s Dream at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Pholcodine and Morphine were detected in the sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Arend Gringhuis, you are pleading guilty to a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2)(a). The charge involves a pre-race sample taken from “Eilish’s Dream” before Race 9 at Healesville on 28 May 2021. The dog ran fourth.

The sample proved positive to the prohibited substances pholcodine and morphine. There is no dispute but that they came from some cough medicine given to Eilish’s Dream within about 48 hours before it raced. The dog had been coughing and you administered some medication, really designed for human consumption.

You have identified your error from the time that you were first interviewed and have fully cooperated with the Stewards. In addition, you have an excellent record. You have been a registered trainer since such were first recorded in 1985 and have no relevant prior convictions. Indeed, in all that time, there are only a few “traffic offences” recorded.

You are essentially a hobby trainer. You are aged 71 years, and continue working in the industrial waste industry. You have kennels for 10 dogs and only have one racing at the moment. You have some puppies and a couple of pets.

You are apologetic for the error that you made in treating the dog with cough medicine. We are confident that it will not occur again. Specific deterrence is of little importance. General deterrence is important. This Tribunal frequently refers to the importance of a level playing field and the image of a drug free industry.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of three months suspension, wholly suspended for 24 months on the condition that you do not commit an offence under GAR 83 during that period. As stated, we are confident that you will not.

Finally, Eilish’s Dream is disqualified from Race 9 at Healesville on 28 May 2021 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal