5 February 2020

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**MS CARLY FELTHAM**

**Date of hearing:** 28 January 2020

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson), Ms Heidi Keighran and Ms Maree Payne.

**Appearances:** Mr Andrew Cusumano appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Ms Carly Feltham represented herself.

**Charge:** 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:**

**Charge 1**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules.
2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound *“Wharfies Girl”.*
3. *“Wharfies Girl”* was presented for, and competed in, Event 11, SIRES ON ICE DASH, Grade 5, conducted by the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club at Ballarat on 20 June 2019 (**the Event**).
4. On 20 June 2019, you presented “Wharfies Girl” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a)A post-race sample of blood was taken from “Wharfies Girl” at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Carprofen was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Ms Carly Feltham, you have pleaded ‘guilty’ to a breach of Rule 83(2). ‘Wharfies Girl’, trained by you, competed in and won race 11 at Ballarat on 20 June 2019. A post-race blood sample revealed the presence of Carprofen, a prohibited substance which could be described in general terms as a pain killer. The only explanation you could think of relates to contaminated meat and the Stewards are not challenging that proposition.

You have been a public trainer since 2015. You train a small number of dogs and have had considerable success. You are on the committee of the Greyhound Owners, Trainers and Breeders Association. Your husband is also involved in the greyhound industry, and you have 2 young children at primary school.

You placed before us some very impressive references and we have taken them into account. You are obviously a very well-regarded person in the industry.

However, matters of general deterrence must be borne in mind. The dangers of feeding knackery meat to greyhounds have been emphasised in recent years. We note that you have now switched to kangaroo meat and it is a shame this was not done earlier. We accept that you are genuinely upset and remorseful in relation to this charge.

The penalty which is effectively sought by the Stewards is one imposed in similar cases and seems to be appropriate. You are fined the sum of $1,000 and we suspend $750 of that pending no further breach of GAR 83 in the next 12 months. In other words, you are required to pay the fine of $250. You will have a further $750 hanging over your head in the next 12 months, but we are confident that you will not offend again.

An extra penalty is that Wharfie’s Girl is disqualified from race 11 at Ballarat on 20 June 2019 and the finishing order is amended accordingly. This unfortunately requires a refund payment of $1405, which is indeed an additional penalty.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal