3 June 2022

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**JEFFREY GUY**

**Date of hearing:** 19 May 2022

**Panel:** Judge Graeme Hicks (Deputy Chairperson) and Mr Josh Bornstein.

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

Mr Jeffrey Guy represented himself.

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

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

 (a) nominated to compete in an Event;

 (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or

 (c) 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 charges: Charge 1**

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.

1. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound “Jabba Bolt”.
2. Jabba Bolt was nominated to compete in, Race 12, COAST FM & 3YB (250+ RANK), Grade 5, conducted by the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club at Warrnambool on 23 August 2021 (the Event).
3. On 23 August 2021, you presented Jabba Bolt at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Jabba Bolt at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Ketoprofen was detected in the Sample.

 **Charge 2**

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 “Jabba Bolt”.
3. Jabba Bolt was nominated to compete in, Race 12, COAST FM & 3YB (250+ RANK), Grade 5, conducted by the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club at Warrnambool on 23 August 2021 (the Event).
4. On 23 August 2021, you presented Jabba Bolt at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Jabba Bolt at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Jeffrey Guy, you have pleaded guilty to two charges of breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2).

On 23 August 2021 at Warrnambool, you nominated your greyhound, “Jabber Bolt”, to compete in Race 12 when it was not free of prohibited substances, namely ketoprofen (Charge 1) and meloxicam (Charge 2).

Dr Steven Karamatic, Chief Veterinarian at Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”), opined that both ketoprofen and meloxicam can affect the performance of a greyhound. Ketoprofen is an analgesic that can reduce pain, fever and inflammation. Meloxicam is also a drug which can reduce pain, fever and inflammation.

Ketoprofen and meloxicam are commonly used in veterinary medicine, including the treatment of sick or lame cattle or horses. Therefore, the purchasing and/or feeding of knackery meat to a greyhound risks inadvertent exposure and can lead to a breach of the Rule.

Several warnings to the greyhound racing industry have been given alerting participants to the dangers of feeding knackery meat to their greyhounds.

You slaughter your own meat and feed that to your greyhounds. People in the area know this and from time to time they drop off to you horses or cattle for you to slaughter. You ask farmers if there is anything in the animals’ system and you rely upon the truth of their answers. The process is that you feed your greyhounds knackery meat, but two days before the greyhound is due to race, you only feed your greyhound kangaroo meat and/or meat fit for human consumption. You were once told by a Steward that this would be a safe time for anything in your greyhound’s system to have metabolised out.

It is highly likely that the two presentation charges regarding your greyhound arise out of meat from animals that have been slaughtered.

You are now aged 58 and have been in the greyhound industry some 42 years. You live in a caravan park and drive a long distance to train your greyhounds. Your sole source of income is from your participation in the greyhound racing industry. As to your health, you have had two heart attacks.

Principles of specific and general deterrence have a part to play in arriving at an appropriate penalty. It is vital to the greyhound racing industry that it is conducted on a level playing field without greyhounds having prohibited substances in their systems.

You have one prior conviction for breaching the same Rule and the decision in relation to that breach was made on 13 April 2021.

We have taken into account your pleas of guilty, your cooperation with the Stewards and, in particular, your long history in the industry without blemish, save as to the one prior conviction. We also take into account that the two presentation charges arise out of the same incident.

In all the circumstances, on Charge 1, you will be suspended for a period of three months with one month of that suspension suspended for a period of 24 months and a fine of $1,500 with $500 of that to be suspended for a period of 24 months.

On Charge 2, you will be suspended for a period of three months with one month of that suspension suspended for a period of 24 months and a fine of $1,500 with $500 of that to be suspended for a period of 24 months.

We direct that such penalties are to be served concurrently.

In addition, Jabba Bolt is disqualified from Race 12 at Warrnambool on 23 August 2021.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal