12 August 2022

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**JUSTIN BOWMAN**

**Date of hearing:** 11 August 2022

**Panel:** Magistrate John Doherty (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.

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

Mr Justin Bowman represented himself.

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

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 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 “Targod Shirley”.

3. Targod Shirley was nominated to compete in, Race 1, Book Our Marquee In January, Maiden, conducted by the Sandown Greyhound Racing Club at Sandown Park on 9 January 2022 (the Event).

4. On 9 January 2022, you presented Targod Shirley at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A post-race sample of urine was taken from Targod Shirley at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Procaine was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Despite numerous notices to the industry about feeding greyhounds knackery meat, this is another case in a long line of such cases. The greyhound, “Targod Shirley”, was presented by Mr Justin Bowman, its trainer, at Sandown on 9 January 2022, when it was placed first in Race 1. A post-race sample of urine taken from the greyhound tested positive for procaine, a prohibited substance capable of inducing an artificial pain free state.

Mr Bowman now sources kangaroo meat to feed his greyhounds.

In determining penalty, we take into account Mr Bowman’s plea of guilty, his cooperation with Stewards, the need for consistency in penalties, general and specific deterrence and the need for a level playing field and drug free racing for all industry participants.

In the recent cases of Mr Bruno Panetta and Mr Shane Jackson, a $2,000 fine with $1,000 of that penalty suspended for 24 months has been imposed by this Tribunal. We also view that penalty as appropriate in this case and impose the same penalty. However, we suspend the $1,000 for 12 months.

In addition, Targod Shirley is disqualified from Race 1 at Sandown on 9 January 2022 and any prizemoney is forfeited to Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”).

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal