26 August 2021

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**PETER KNOTT**

**Date of hearing:** 5 August 2021

**Panel:** Judge Graeme Hicks (Deputy Chairperson) and Judge Julie Nicholson.

**Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce, instructed by Mr Marwan El-Asmar, appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Peter Knott represented himself.

**Charges:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 83 (1A) states:

A person who-

1. administers, attempts to administer or causes to be administered a prohibited substance to a greyhound;
2. aids, abets, counsels or procures any person to administer a prohibited substance to a greyhound; or
3. has prior knowledge of a prohibited substance being administered to a greyhound which is detected in any sample taken from such greyhound that has been presented for an Event or when subject to any other contingency provided for pursuant to these Rules, shall be guilty of an offence.

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 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 Greyhound Australasia Rules.

2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound “Especial Envy”.

3. “Especial Envy” was presented for, and competed in, Race 11, HONE IN @ STUD, Grade 5, conducted by the Shepparton greyhound Racing Club at Shepparton on 18 January 2021 (the Event).

4. You administered, or caused to be administered, to “Especial Envy”, a prohibited substance, being Levamisole, which was detected in a sample taken from “Especial Envy” in that:

1. you administered, or caused to be administered, a product containing Levamisole, namely ‘Fido’s Closasole’, to “Especial Envy” on or around 14 January 2021;

(b) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “Especial Envy” at the Event (the Sample);

1. Levamisole 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 “Especial Envy”.

3. “Especial Envy” was nominated to compete in, Race 11, HONE IN @ STUD, Grade 5, conducted by the Shepparton greyhound Racing Club at Shepparton on 18 January 2021 (the Event).

4. On 18 January 2021, you presented “Especial Envy” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “Especial Envy” at the Event (the Sample);

(b) Levamisole was detected in the Sample.

**Pleas:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Peter Knott, you have pleaded guilty to breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(1A) and GAR 83(2), when your greyhound Especial Envy raced in race 11 at the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club meeting held on 18 January 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance, namely Levamisole.

Levamisole is a drug which can affect the performance of a greyhound.

On 21 April 2021, you informed Stewards that you had been giving your greyhound Fido worming tablets that which, upon analysis, contain Levamisole.

On 31 May 2018, Stewards issued a warning to those in the industry about worming tablets and the risks involved.

As to your personal circumstances, you are now 74 years of age. You have a son who is a paramedic and a daughter who is at Deakin University. You have been in the industry on and off for some 50 years and have an excellent record. You performed national service and joined the Commonwealth bank where you reached the position of branch manager. At one stage of your life, you detoured and did painting and decorating. You now have 14 dogs in work and have 7 pups.

It is vital that greyhound racing is conducted on a level playing field without prohibited substances. Principles of general deterrence and, to a far lesser extent, specific deterrence, have a part to play in arriving an appropriate penalty.

In all the circumstance, in respect of charges 1 and 2 we impose a suspension of 3 months, wholly suspended for a period of 12 months, with such penalties to be served concurrently.

We order that Especial Envy be disqualified from race 11 at the Shepparton greyhound racing club meeting held on 18 January 2021 and the placings to be amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal