19 January 2021

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**ROBERT GLASS**

**Date of hearing:** 19 January 2021

**Panel:** Magistrate John Doherty (Deputy Chairperson) and Judge Julie Nicholson.

**Appearances:** Mr Marwan El-Asmar appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Robert Glass represented himself.

**Charge:** 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 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 “Kinloch Choir”.
3. “Kinloch Choir” was presented for, and competed in, Race 1, EVERY RACE LIVE ON THEWATCHDOG APP, Maiden, conducted by the Bendigo Greyhound Racing Association at Bendigo on 1 May 2020 (**the Event**).
4. You administered, or caused to be administered, to “Kinloch Choir”, a prohibited substance, being Cobalt, which was detected in a sample taken from “Kinloch Choir” in that:
5. You are responsible for the feeding of, and administration of supplements to, “Kinloch Choir”;
6. Four (4) products containing cobalt were identified at your kennels on 3 June 2020;
7. A post-race sample of urine was taken from “Kinloch Choir” at the Event (**the Sample**);
8. Cobalt was detected at a mass concentration of greater than 100 nanograms per millilitre in the Sample; and
9. The mass concentration of cobalt detected in the sample could only be caused by the administration of cobalt.

**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 “Kinloch Choir”.
3. “Kinloch Choir” was nominated to compete in, Race 1, EVERY RACE LIVE ON THEWATCHDOG APP, Maiden, conducted by the Bendigo Greyhound Racing Association at Bendigo on 1 May 2020 (**the Event**).
4. On 1 May 2020, you presented “Kinloch Choir” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
5. A post-race sample of urine was taken from “Kinloch Choir” at the Event (**the Sample**);
6. Cobalt was detected at a mass concentration of greater than 100 nanograms per millilitre in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Greyhound trainer, Mr Robert Glass, has pleaded guilty to two charges brought against him by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”). Those charges are:

“Charge 1: in breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(1A), being the trainer of “Kinloch Choir” (the dog) who was presented for and competed in Race 1 at Bendigo on 1 May 2020, that you administered, or caused to be administered to Kinloch Choir, a prohibited substance, being Cobalt, which was detected in a post-race sample of urine taken from the dog at a mass concentration greater than 100 nanograms per millilitre in that sample; and

Charge 2: in breach of GAR 83(2), being the trainer of Kinloch Choir at the abovementioned event on 1 May 2020, that you presented the dog at the event not free of any prohibited substance, given that the post-race urine sample taken from the dog contained Cobalt at a mass concentration greater than 100 nanograms per millilitre in the sample”.

Mr Glass has been a public trainer since 2011 and he trains from a property in Kyabram, aided by his father, Mr Graham Glass, and younger brother, Mr Ricky Glass, who kennelled the dog on race day. The dog was located with Mr Glass for 84 days and has since been returned to its owner in Wagga Wagga. This was the dogs first run for Mr Glass and it won the race in question, paying $9.70 for the win. Mr Glass did not back the dog for himself.

Mr Glass and his family are at a loss to understand why the dog produced a Cobalt level (162 nanograms per millilitre) in breach of the Rules. One theory is that the dog was a fussy eater and would not eat unless its meal contained “Stockgain”, a product containing Cobalt active ingredients. This product was fed to the dog to encourage it to eat so it would not lose condition. This product and three other products, Feramo D Virbac Australia Pty Ltd, Livamol (Souter's) and Box 1 Sprinter Gold, were found on the Kyabram property by GRV Stewards during a kennel inspection. Out of competition swabs taken from dogs at Mr Glass’ property registered Cobalt in the range between 4 and 15 nanograms per millilitre.

Mr Glass’ primary occupation is as a schoolteacher. He currently does not have any greyhounds in training and he no longer uses the product Box 1 Sprinter Gold. He does not use injectable products on his greyhounds.

In assessing penalty, the Tribunal takes into account general deterrence and the importance of upholding the integrity of the industry by providing drug free racing. The Tribunal also takes into account penalties handed down by it in recent cases. The Tribunal further takes into account Mr Glass’ guilty pleas, his remorse, cooperation with the Stewards and good training record.

In all the circumstances, we impose a period of 12 months suspension on each charge, with the suspension on charge 2 to be served concurrently with charge 1, being an overall effective suspension of Mr Glass’ training license for 12 months. In respect of that period of 12 months, we suspend 10 months of that period, pending no further breaches of GAR 83 in the next 12 months. The suspension shall commence immediately.

Finally, the greyhound, Kinloch Choir, is disqualified from Race 1 at Bendigo on 1 May 2020 and any prizemoney won is now forfeited to GRV.

Kathleen Scully  
Acting Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal