20 July 2021

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**SEBASTIANO GIBILISCO**

**Date of hearing:** 6 July 2021

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson) and Mr Des Gleeson.

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

Mr Sebastiano Gibilisco represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“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:** 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 “Hagrid Grange”.

3. “Hagrid Grange” was nominated to compete in, Race 12, AG Tyres & Wheels, Grade 5 T3, conducted by the Bendigo Greyhound Racing Association at Bendigo on 30 December 2020 (**the Event**).

4. On 30 December 2020, you presented “Hagrid Grange” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “Hagrid Grange” at the Event (**the Sample**);

(b) Ketoprofen was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Sebastiano Gibilisco, you have pleaded guilty to a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2). The dog concerned is “Hagrid Grange”, which ran in Race 12 at Bendigo on 30 December 2020. It finished seventh. A pre-race urine sample was analysed and proved positive to ketoprofen.

The most likely source of the ketoprofen in this case is knackery meat. You had purchased extra meat from the shop in Bendigo coming into the Christmas period. This seems to have caused the problem.

We accept that you had no knowledge of the prohibited substance being in the meat that you had purchased, but you had read the warnings which Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) had sent to participants concerning knackery meat and the advisability of avoiding it.

You are 78 years of age and have been a licensed trainer “on and off” for approximately 50 years. More recently, you have been certified as a public trainer since 2012. You train only a small number of dogs.

You have a very good record. You have no record of prior offences of this nature. Essentially, you have accepted the penalty proposed by the Stewards, namely a fine of $1,500, $1,000 of which is suspended for a period of 12 months. It is the penalty which has been imposed in similar cases of this nature – for example, in the cases of Garry Barnsley and Heather Harper.

Those in the industry should be well aware of the risks of knackery meat and avoid it accordingly. The concept and appearance of a level playing field is very important. Specific deterrence does not seem to be particularly applicable in your case. General deterrence does apply.

In summary, we accept that you are a trainer of good repute and with a very good record.

The penalty imposed is a fine of $1,500, with $1,000 suspended for 12 months. We are confident that you will not commit a similar offence during that period. This means that $500 is payable forthwith.

Hagrid Grange is disqualified from Race 12 at Bendigo on 30 December 2020 and the finishing order amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal