7 July 2022

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**SHANE JACKSON**

**Date of hearing:** 1 July 2022

**Panel:** Justice Shane Marshall (Deputy Chairperson) and Judge Julie Nicholson.

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

Mr Shane Jackson 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 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 “Draconic Lad”.

3. Draconic Lad was nominated to compete in, Race 2, hookedonscotch.com.au, Mixed 6/7, conducted by the Cranbourne Greyhound Racing Club at Cranbourne on 22 October 2021 (the Event).

4. On 22 October 2021, you presented Draconic Lad at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

(b) Procaine was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

1. Mr Shane Jackson is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the greyhound “Draconic Lad”. The greyhound competed in Race 2 at Cranbourne on 22 October 2021. A swab taken from the greyhound revealed a positive reading to procaine.
2. Procaine is a prohibited substance. Although its performance enhancing effects are doubtful, it is capable of affecting the condition or performance of a greyhound in a positive way by inducing a pain free state.
3. Stewards of Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) have charged Mr Jackson with presenting a greyhound for an event while not free of a prohibited substance contrary to Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2). Mr Jackson pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity.
4. In setting a penalty, we take into account general deterrence. Specific deterrence does not loom large in our consideration because as soon as Mr Jackson was informed of the positive swab, he stopped feeding his greyhounds knackery meat. Feeding of knackery meat to greyhounds is notorious as a source of procaine positive swabs. Mr Jackson now feeds his greyhounds kangaroo meat.
5. We also take into account the importance of keeping a level playing field in greyhound racing by maintaining a drug free industry. We further take note of Mr Jackson’s good record in his time as a trainer, his early guilty plea and recent penalties in like matters.
6. In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a $2,000 fine but suspend $1,000 on the condition that there is no further breach of GAR 83 in the next 24 months.
7. In addition, Draconic Lad is disqualified from Race 2 at Cranbourne on 22 October 2021.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal