1 September 2023

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**JUDITH CONDO**

**Date of hearing:** 24 August 2023

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

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

Mr John Caulfield represented Ms Judith Condo.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1) states:

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

(b) presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for by the Rules; or

(c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a stand-down period being varied or revoked,

must 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 *“Eadie”.*

3. *“Eadie”* was nominated to compete in Race 5, SPORTS VOTE COUNT, Grade 7, conducted by the Bendigo Greyhound Racing Association at Bendigo on 23 November 2022 (**the Event**).

 4. On 23 November 2022, you presented *“Eadie”* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

* 1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from *“Eadie”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
	2. Arsenic was detected at a mass concentration of greater than 800 nanograms per millilitre in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Ms Judith Condo, at all relevant times, was the registered trainer of the greyhound “Eadie”. She has pleaded guilty to a presentation charge under GAR141(1) in respect of an elevated concentration of arsenic in breach of the Rules.

One explanation put forward by Ms Condo for the breach was the use of an oil pesticide to control a very heavy influx of mosquitos following floods on her property. The more likely reason for the breach, accordingly to GRV Chief Veterinarian Dr Steven Karamatic, was the licking or chewing of CCA treated pine by the greyhound.

Ms Condo has been active in greyhound racing for some years and was first registered as a trainer in Victoria in 2020. Ms Condo’s activity history is without blemish and she is currently managing greyhound pups and has no racing dogs.

In all the circumstances, the Tribunal’s penalty is a 6 month suspension with 4 months of that period suspended for 24 months. The suspension shall commence immediately.

In addition, Eadie is disqualified from Race 5 at Bendigo on 23 November 2022 and the finishing order be amended accordingly.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal