23 June 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**KEITH LLOYD**

**Date of hearing:** 13 June 2025

**Date of Decision:** 13 June 2025

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson)

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

Mr David Shovan represented himself.

**Charges and Particulars:**

Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1) reads as follows:

**Rule 141 Greyhound to be free of prohibited substances**

1. The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:
2. nominated to compete in an Event;
3. presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for by the Rules; or
4. 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 the Charge being**:

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound “Butterflies Lad”
3. “Butterflies Lad” was nominated to compete in Race 10, TOPCAT VIDEO PRODUCTIONS, Mixed 4/5, conducted by the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club at Geelong on 19 July 2024 (The Event).
4. On 19 July 2024, you presented “Butterflies Lad” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
   1. A post-race sample of urine was taken from *“*Butterflies Lad*”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
   2. Metformin was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Keith Lloyd, you are pleading guilty to a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 141(1) and you have so pleaded virtually from the commencement of the Charge. The prohibited substance is question was Metformin, a substance which could be described as being towards the lower end of the scale of gravity of prohibited substances.

The Charge arose from a swab taken from Butterflies Lad, trained by you. The relevant race was Race 10 at Geelong on 19 July 2024, which Butterflies Lad won at very long odds. One potentially sad feature of this is that there was a tote breakdown and you were unable to get a bet on your greyhound.

The source of the Metformin seems to be relatively simply to identify. Both you and your wife took daily medication containing Metformin. The greyhound, Butterflies Lad, is a somewhat affectionate dog which frequently licked you. You have since taken various steps in order to avoid a reoccurrence of this. You still do lots of “hands on” work with your greyhounds, with the assistance of your son. The wearing of long trousers has become a must. Previously you frequently wore shorts.

You have an establishment near Balliang. Apart from a residence, you have kennel facilities for quite a lot of greyhounds and have some 53 presently kennelled there. You have had there in excess of 100 greyhounds.

You are now approximately 76 years of age and, save for an absence of a couple of years, have been licensed continually since 1967. Thus, you have been a licensed trainer for something approaching 58 years.

Whilst you have a record of some minor offences, you have a spotless record as far as more major offences, and particularly prohibited substance offences, are concerned. It is a very good record indeed. As stated, the commission of this offence was caused by a somewhat affectionate greyhound licking you when you were on a particular medication. I am confident that you have taken steps that will prevent any recurrence.

I must also bear in mind the desirability of having a drug free industry and its importance of the image of greyhound racing. I consider it highly unlikely that you will commit any relevant offence in the future.

I have born in mind the penalties in similar cases. I have also born in mind your outstanding record over many years and the measures that you have taken to prevent any recurrence.

The bottom line is that you are fined the sum of $500, but $250 of that is suspended for 12 months. In the very unlikely event of your committing another relevant offence in the next 12 months, that suspended fine of $250 would be activated. $250 is payable immediately.

Further, Butterflies Lad is disqualified from Race 10 at Geelong on 19 July 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Paige Macdonald

A/Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal