4 July 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**PETER FULTON**

**Date of hearing:** 23 June 2025

**Date of Decision:** 23 June 2025

**Panel:** Magistrate Peter Reardon (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Danielle Hikri.

**Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

 Mr Peter Fulton represented himself.

**Charges and Particulars:**

**Charge 1 of 3**

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 “Sam’s Girl”
3. “Sam’s Girl” was nominated to compete in Race 1, NATIONAL GREYOUND ADOPTION MONTH, Maiden, conducted by the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club at Horsham on 30 April 2024 (The Event).
4. On 30 April 2024, you presented “Sam’s Girl” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
	1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from *“*Sam’s Girl*”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
	2. Atenolol was detected in the Sample.

**Charge 2 of 3**

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 “Sam’s Girl”
3. “Sam’s Girl” was nominated to compete in Race 1, NATIONAL GREYOUND ADOPTION MONTH, Maiden, conducted by the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club at Horsham on 30 April 2024 (The Event).
4. On 30 April 2024, you presented “Sam’s Girl” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
	1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from *“*Sam’s Girl*”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
	2. Irbesartan was detected in the Sample.

**Charge 3 of 3**

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 “Sam’s Girl”
3. “Sam’s Girl” was nominated to compete in Race 1, NATIONAL GREYOUND ADOPTION MONTH, Maiden, conducted by the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club at Horsham on 30 April 2024 (The Event).
4. On 30 April 2024, you presented “Sam’s Girl” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
	1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from *“*Sam’s Girl*”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
	2. Hydrochlorothiazide was detected in the Sample.

**Pleas:** Guilty to all charges

**DECISION**

* 1. Mr Peter Fulton is and was at all relevant times a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and a person bound by Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”). Mr Fulton was the trainer of “Sam’s Girl”.
	2. Mr Fulton has been charged with three breaches of GAR 141(1), namely that he presented a greyhound not free of a prohibited substance. These are presentation charges.
	3. In summary, Sam’s Girl was conveyed by Mr Fulton to the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club on 30 April 2024 to compete in Race 1.
	4. A pre-race urine sample was taken from Sam’s Girl in accordance with the GAR and ultimately forwarded to Racing Analytical Services Limited (“RASL”) for analysis.
	5. Sam’s Girl competed in and won Race 1. The analysis performed on the urine sample showed the presence of Atenolol, Irbesartan and Hydrochlorothiazide, all prohibited substances. Subsequently, he was charged with the offences.
	6. On 4 June 2024, Stewards attended the kennel property of Mr Fulton and informed him of the presence of the prohibited substances.
	7. Mr Fulton informed the Stewards that his mother. who also lives at the property, assists in the preparation of the feeding of the greyhounds.
	8. During the kennel inspection that day, medications, supplements and non-refrigerated foodstuffs were present in the kennel area and were recorded. Sam’s Girl was also at the property. Mr Fulton had conveyed Sam’s Girl to Horsham on 30 April 2024 and had been present when the sample was taken by Stewards at Horsham.
	9. On 4 June 2024, some medications were found in the house. These corresponded with the prohibited substances from the urine samples taken from Sam’s Girl. These medications were prescribed for his mother, Ms Beryl Fulton.
	10. Mr Fulton was spoken to by GRV Stewards by telephone on 11 September 2024 at 11:21am and interviewed about the breaches of the GAR.
	11. He told the Stewards the following. He has held a greyhound trainer’s licence for ten years and was present when the sample taken.
	12. Mr Fulton informed the Stewards that he did not bet and had no betting accounts. He stated that his mother lives at his residence and that she has prescribed medications.
	13. His mother does the preparation for the feeds, as he runs the dairy farm. She does it every day and has a regime to which she adheres. She washes her hands and wears gloves in food preparation and when feeding the dogs.
	14. Mr Fulton was up to date with industry practices on food preparation, medications, and potential risks of inadvertent positive swabs. The advice of GRV is followed.
	15. Mr Fulton believed that on the day in question his mother had done the medications. She had washed her hands. They had loaded to dogs for the trip to Horsham. Residue of the medications had probably been transferred to the greyhounds. That was the only explanation of which Mr Fulton could think. Any touching of the food by his mother had been inadvertent. She had barely touched the food.
	16. The prohibited substances were analysed. Dr Steven Karamatic, GRV Chief Veterinarian, has stated that the prohibited substances are unlikely to be performance enhancing drugs. They are more likely to have the opposite effect on racing greyhounds.
	17. Mr Fulton did not expect his greyhound to win. He has stated that, if charged, he would have to wear it. He admitted that he had been placed on a suspended sentence from Horsham on 19 July 2023 for positive swabs positive to Atenolol, Hydrochlorothiazide and Chlorothiazide with greyhound “Moraine Zorro”. The penalty imposed was suspension for four months with three months suspended for 24 months.
	18. Mr Fulton has pleaded guilty and is entitled to a discount on penalty. The prohibited substances are not at the serious end of offences and it is accepted that they occurred inadvertently, rather than intentionally. They were not performance enhancing.
	19. Nevertheless, with a suspended sentence hanging over Mr Fulton, it is somewhat surprising that he is back before the Tribunal for similar offending.
	20. The Tribunal accepts that the offending was inadvertent and not deliberate, but the fact that Mr Fulton is on a suspended sentence for similar offending is an aggravating factor and must be taken into account.
	21. Mr Fulton is 31 years of age and has been a public trainer since 2014. He could be described as a hobby trainer. We accept that your record overall is satisfactory, given the number of dogs that you have with only the assistance of your mother. Your explanation to the Stewards when interviewed shows that precautions have been taken by you to prevent this type of offence reoccurring and that he has cooperated with the Stewards.
	22. Nevertheless, the Tribunal must accept that both general and specific deterrents are relevant in this case. It is his third offence of a similar nature. He was on a suspended sentence at the time of the commission of the offence.
	23. Greyhounds must be drug free, not only for their welfare, but also for the importance of the good name of the industry by keeping it a drug free.
	24. We have taken into account his plea of guilty, his cooperation with the Stewards, and his genuine remorse. We also have taken into account the need to denounce generally such behaviour and penalties imposed in similar cases.
	25. Mr Fulton submitted that a substantial fine be imposed. However, a fine would be inappropriate, as he was already on a suspended sentence for a similar offence and this is his third offence.

**PENALTY**

* 1. The Tribunal will reactivate the three month suspended sentence imposed on 19 July 2023.
	2. The penalty for these offences will be an aggregate penalty of three months suspension cumulative on the three month reactivated suspended sentence – a total of 6 months suspension.
	3. Sam’s Girl is disqualified from Race 1 at Horsham Greyhound Racing Club on 30 April 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal