4 August 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**RAYMOND FARQUHAR**

**Date of Hearing:** 29 July 2025

**Date of Decision:** 29 July 2025

**Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Judy Bourke.

**Appearances:** Mr Jordan Vassis appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Raymond Farquhar represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasian 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 “Winnie’s Wish”.

3. Winnie’s Wish was nominated to compete in Race 6, Topcat Video Productions, Mixed 4/5, conducted by the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club at Geelong on 7 October 2024 (the Event).

4. On 7 October 2024, you presented “Winnie’s Wish” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “Winnie’s Wish” upon arrival to the course (the Sample);

(b) Metformin was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Raymond Farquhar is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GARs”). He has been a trainer for approximately six years. He is the trainer of the greyhound, “Winnie’s Wish”. Winnie’s Wish was nominated to compete in Race 6 at Geelong on 7 October 2024. A pre-race urine sample was taken from the greyhound and detected the prohibited substance, metformin.

Mr Farquhar has been charged with a presentation offence pursuant to GAR 141(1) on account of presenting Winnie’s Wish for an event while not free of a prohibited substance. Mr Farquhar has pleaded guilty to the offence.

Dr Steven Karamatic, Chief Veterinarian at GRV, provided a report dated 23 December 2024. Dr Karamatic said that metformin is a prohibited substance as defined by the GARs. Metformin meets the criteria for a prohibited substance.

There are currently no Australian Pesticides and Veterinarian Medicine Authority registered products that contain metformin. However, there are human products that contain metformin in tablet form, which is commonly branded under the name metformin. All are prescription only medicines.

The treatment records did not detail the administration of any products containing metformin to the greyhound. Metformin is used in the treatment of diabetes which lowers the blood sugar levels. Metformin causes an overall reduction in blood glucose which could lead to reduced performance.

Mr Farquhar was informed that the positive sample taken from Winnie’s Wish had detected the presence of metformin. He identified with the substance as he is prescribed metformin tablets for a medical condition. He could not explain how the substance was in the greyhound’s system as he takes the medication twice daily in his house. The only explanation was the greyhound found a tablet on the floor after gaining access from an open door.

Dr Karamatic reported that contamination from personal medication was the most likely source of the positive sample, however, other sources could not be excluded.

Dr Karamatic referred to the Notices to the Industry in August 2016 and July 2020 warning participants of the potential risks of inadvertent positive swabs from personal medications and gave some guidance to minimise those risks.

Mr Farquhar only has one greyhound, Winnie’s Wish, who is kennelled in the backyard. Mr Farquhar advised that he did not give Winnie’s Wish metformin. In an interview with the Stewards, Mr Farquhar confirmed he takes metformin twice daily, he prepares the meals and feeds the greyhound morning and evening. Since the irregularity he now washes his hands after taking his medication and wears gloves when preparing the food and feeding the dog. He does not allow the dog to lick his hands, and the greyhound no longer has access to the house.

In imposing a penalty, we take into account Mr Farquhar’s co-operation with the Stewards, his guilty plea, good record and the importance of general deterrence. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. In addition, we take into account the submissions of the Stewards in relation to penalty and recent penalties in like matters.

In all the circumstances we impose a $500 fine.

In addition, Winnie’s Wish is disqualified from Race 6 at Geelong on 7 October 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully

Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal