4 August 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**VIVIENNE ARNETT-DUNLOP**

**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.

Ms Vivienne Arnett-Dunlop represented herself.

**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 *“Dakoda Sunset”.*

3. *“Dakoda Sunset”* was nominated to compete in Race 4, MMS ACCESS, Grade 5 T3, conducted by the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club at Shepparton on 8 August 2024 (**the Event**).

 4. On 8 August 2024, you presented *“Dakoda Sunset”* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

* 1. A post-race sample of urine was taken from *“Dakoda Sunset”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
	2. Atenolol was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Ms Vivienne Arnett-Dunlop is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GARs”). She has been a trainer licensed for approximately two years. She was the trainer of “Dakota Sunset”. Dakota Sunset was nominated to compete in Race 4 conducted by the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club on 8 August 2024.

On 8 August 2024, Ms Arnett-Dunlop presented Dakota Sunset not free of any prohibited substance given that a post-race sample of urine detected the presence of atenolol.

Ms Arnett-Dunlop was charged with a presentation offence pursuant to GAR 141(1) on account of presenting Dakota Sunset for an event while not free of a prohibited substance.

Ms Arnett-Dunlop pleaded guilty to the charge at an early stage.

The GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, in a report dated 1 October 2024, confirmed that atenolol is a prohibited substance as defined by the GARs. Atenolol is placed in the category “Stimulants, depressants and other prohibited substances” of the GRV Penalty Guidelines. There are currently no Animal Pesticide and Veterinarian Medicines Authority registered products that contain atenolol There are Therapeutic Goods Administration (human) registered products that contain atenolol, mostly in tablet form.

At the kennel inspection, personal medication of Ms Arnett-Dunlop was produced, Noten Atenolol 50mgs x 30 tablets. The medication was prescribed by Ms Arnett-Dunlop’s medical practitioner for a medical condition. Ms Arnett-Dunlop had been taking the medicine for approximately 10 years. Dr Karamatic concluded that contamination from personal medication was the likely source of the positive sample. Dr Karamatic said that records, for the greyhound, which were not current, did not detail the administration treatment of any products containing atenolol.

Dr Karamatic reported the possible side effects in a dog of atenolol included weakening contractions of the heart, low blood pressure, fatigue, dizziness, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Dr Karamatic referred to the Notices to the Industry of August 2016 and July 2020 warning participants of the potential risks of inadvertent positive swabs from the use of personal medications and gave some guidance as to how to minimise the risks. Dr Karamatic concluded that the finding of atenolol as detected in sample V826075 confirmed the presence of a prohibited substance in the sample. Ms Arnett-Dunlop informed the Tribunal that she no longer has greyhounds on site.

We accept that personal medication was the likely cause.

Ms Arnett-Dunlop informed the Tribunal of her financial circumstances whereby she is in receipt of a fortnightly pension and works as a dog catcher two days per week. She has limited income.

In imposing a penalty, we take into account Ms Arnnett-Dunlop’s co-operation with the Stewards, her guilty plea 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. We take into consideration recent penalties in like matters.

Ms Arnett-Dunlop has been in the industry for two years. This is her first offence. We accept her evidence that this was inadvertent.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a fine of $500 with $250 suspended for 24 months, pending no further breach of the Rules of greyhound racing relative to prohibited substances.

In addition, Dakota Sunset is disqualified from Race 4 at Shepparton on 8 August 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal