



**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

**Date of decision:** 21 August 2020

**Decision-maker:** Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind

**Name of relevant person:** Mr Robert Groizard Jnr

**Track:** The Gardens

**Date:** 20 March 2020

**Rule no.:** Rule 83(2)(a)

**Charge(s):** (1) Mr Groizard Jnr presented the greyhound 'Meerkat Warrior' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 4 at The Gardens meeting on 20 March 2020 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

**Prohibited substance(s):** 4-hydroxy xylazine

**Disciplinary action taken:** 20-week suspension (wholly and conditionally suspended for 12-months)

**REPORT:**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Meerkat Warrior' ("**Greyhound**") at The Gardens meeting on 20 March 2020.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of 4-hydroxy xylazine.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr Groizard Jnr with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the post-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of the prohibited substance 4-hydroxy xylazine.

Mr Groizard Jnr admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with the participant's election.

## DECISION:

1. Mr Groizard Jnr is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 4 at The Gardens meeting on 20 March 2020 (“Event”). Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of 4-hydroxy xylazine. 4-hydroxy xylazine is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Groizard Jnr under Rule 83(2)(a), which reads:
  - (2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-
    - (a) nominated to compete in an Event;
    - (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
    - (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revokedshall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. Mr Groizard Jnr admitted the charge, provided written submissions and other material in support of his response and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Groizard Jnr:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 20 weeks, wholly suspended for a period of 12-months on the condition that Mr Groizard Jnr does not breach Rule 83(2)(a) during that 12-month period.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Groizard Jnr has held a greyhound licence for approximately 15 years;
  - Mr Groizard Jnr has one prior prohibited substance matter in his disciplinary history involving ketoprofen in 2014;
  - The prizemoney which will be affected by the taking of this disciplinary action;
  - Expert evidence in relation to the likely source of the prohibited substance stemming from meat contamination of knackery meat;
  - The estimated level of the prohibited substance detected being considered as low;
  - Greyhound racing penalty precedents;
  - Mr Groizard Jnr’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his good character and his feeding practices including the use of knackery meat.

7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 4 at The Gardens meeting on 20 March 2020 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.
8. The Commission notes that there have been several recent cases involving meat contamination as the suggested and / or likely source of a positive swab coming before it. For offences that arise in the future, consideration will be given to larger penalties to communicate to the greyhound racing community that the feeding of knacker meat is an unacceptable practice and must stop.

.....End.....