



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Thursday 22 February 2024

Decision-maker: Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Senior Steward Kevin Adams

Name of relevant person: Troy Luke

Date: 7 October 2023

Rule no.: 139(6) and (7)

Charge(s): Mr Troy Luke was found to be in possession of the permanently banned prohibited substance Gonadorelin when a kennel inspection was conducted at his premises on 7 October 2023.

Plea: Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To issue an 18-month disqualification, backdated to 7 December 2023 when he was interim suspended, and to expire on 7 June 2025.

INVESTIGATION

On 7 October 2023, GWIC Inspectors conducted a kennel inspection at Mr. Luke's premises. During the inspection, the Inspectors located a clear glass vial labelled "Fertagyl". The vial was tested by Racing Analytical Services Ltd and was found to contain Gonadorelin, a permanently banned prohibited substance under Rule 139(1)(d).

DECISION:

1. Mr Luke is a registered Owner Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On 15 February 2024 Mr Luke was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
3. In the Notice issued on 15 February 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Luke with an offence under Rule 139(7) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 139(7), Rules

(6) If any permanently banned prohibited substance is found at any premises used in relation to greyhound racing, any registered person who owns, trains or races or is in charge of a greyhound or greyhounds at those premises is deemed to have the substance or preparation in their possession.

(7) An offence is committed if a person is deemed to be in possession of a relevant substance or preparation pursuant to subrule (6).

4. The Notice proposed a penalty of a two-year disqualification and invited Mr Luke to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
5. On Thursday 22 February 2024 Mr Luke attended a hearing held over Microsoft Teams and:
 - a) entered a plea of guilty; and
 - b) made verbal submissions
6. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Luke's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Luke:

Charge 139(7): To issue an 18-month disqualification, backdated to 7 December 2023 when he was interim suspended, and to expire on 7 June 2025.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Luke's guilty plea
 - Mr Luke's extensive registration history with no like prior offences
 - The serious nature of the substance found
 - No explanation could be sought as to how Mr Luke became in possession of the product
 - GWIC penalty guidelines

.....End.....