

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	24 March 2025
Decision-maker:	Steward Peter Phillips and Senior Steward Kevin Adams
Name of relevant person:	Mark Farrugia
Track	Richmond
Date:	6 December 2024
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Mark Farrugia presented the greyhound 'My Three Boys' for the purpose of competing in race 8 at the Richmond meeting on 6 December 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Meloxicam
Plea:	Not Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a fine of \$1,000 as well as impose a 4 week suspension, which will be wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Farrugia not reoffending under the same or similar rules in this period.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, dated 13 January 2025, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "My Three Boys" at the Richmond meeting on 6 December 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Meloxicam.

DECISION:

1. Mr Farrugia is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "My Three Boys" ("**the Greyhound**"). The Greyhound competed in race 8 of the Richmond meeting on 6 December 2024. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Meloxicam.

3. Meloxicam, in excess of the screening limit of a mass concentration of 5 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 2 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine, is a prohibited substances under Rule 146 of the Rules.
4. On 10 March 2025 Mr Farrugia was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**"). In the Notice, the decision makers charged Mr Farrugia with an offence under Rule 141(1)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 141(1), Rules

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

...

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

...

(3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to subrule (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

5. The Notice invited Mr Farrugia to attend a hearing on Wednesday 26 March 2025 at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the Charge and proposed penalty. The penalty proposed in the notice was a 2-month suspension.
6. On Monday 17 March 2025 Decision Makers requested the hearing date be moved to Monday 24 March 2025, to which Mr. Farrugia consented.
7. On Monday 24 March 2025 decision makers heard the matter via Microsoft Teams. Mr Farrugia attended the hearing and;
 - Entered a plea of not guilty; and
 - Made verbal submissions in respect of the proposed disciplinary action.
8. Following consideration of Mr Farrugia's plea and submissions, the decision makers found the charge proven and determined to take the following disciplinary action against Mr Farrugia:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a fine of \$1000 as well as impose a 4 week suspension, which will be wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Farrugia not reoffending under the same or similar rules in this period.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all the material and evidence before them, including:
 - Mr Farrugia's plea of not guilty
 - Mr Farrugia's disciplinary history over a registration period of 30 years, with no prior prohibited substance offences.

- Mr Farrugia's forthright evidence and commitment to reviewing and improving husbandry practices.
- GWIC penalty guidelines.

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Richmond meeting on 6 December 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....