

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	20 June 2025
Decision-maker:	Steward Sam Woolaston and Steward Angus Chippindale
Name of relevant person:	Melanie Mabbott
Track	Gunnedah
Date:	19 March 2025
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Ms Melanie Mabbott presented the greyhound 'Tralee Luna' for the purpose of competing in race 2 at the Gunnedah meeting on 19 March 2025 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Dexamethasone
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a fine of \$2,500 and a suspension of 12 weeks, with the suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Ms Mabbott not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 2 May 2025, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Tralee Luna" at the Gunnedah meeting on 19 March 2025.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Dexamethasone in excess of 200 picograms per millilitre.

DECISION:

1. Ms Mabbott is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Tralee Luna" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 2 of the Gunnedah meeting on 19 March 2025. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Dexamethasone.

3. Dexamethasone, which exceeds the screening limit of a mass concentration of 200 picograms per millilitre in a sample of urine, is a prohibited substance under Rule 146 of the Rules.
4. On 4 June 2025 Ms Mabbott was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 4 June 2025 the decision makers charged Ms Mabbott 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.

6. The Notice invited Ms Mabbott to attend a hearing on Monday 16 June 2025 at which time she 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 4-month suspension.
7. On Friday 6 June 2025, Ms Mabbott's legal representative requested the hearing scheduled for 16 June 2025 be vacated, to which decision makers consented. On Thursday 12 June 2025 a new hearing date of Thursday 19 June 2025 was confirmed.
8. On Wednesday 18 June 2025, Ms Mabbott's legal representative contacted decision makers and;
 - Entered written submissions
9. At the hearing held on Thursday 19 June 2025 via Microsoft Team Ms Mabbott and her legal representative;
 - Entered a plea of guilty;
 - Entered written submissions; and
 - Made verbal submissions
10. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Ms Mabbott's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms Mabbot:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a fine of \$2,500 and a suspension of 12 weeks, with the suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Ms Mabbot not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period.

11. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- Ms Mabbott's guilty plea (25% reduction)
- Ms Mabbot's personal and professional circumstances;
- Ms. Mabbot's disciplinary record, including a prior prohibited substance matter within the prior five years.
- Ms. Mabbot's cooperation and forthright evidence

12. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 2 at the Gunnedah meeting on 19 March 2025 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules

.....End.....