

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	29 July 2025
Decision-maker:	Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel and Acting Senior Steward Ben Boyce Mortlock
Name of relevant person:	Mark Suttle
Track	Nowra
Date:	20 April 2025
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Mark Suttle presented the greyhound 'Skedaddle Dennis' for the purpose of competing in race 1 at the Nowra meeting on 20 April 2025 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Ketoprofen
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a fine of \$500 and a four-week suspension, with the suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr Suttle 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 June 2025, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Skedaddle Dennis" at the Nowra meeting on 20 April 2025.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Ketoprofen in excess of a mass concentration of 10 nanograms per millilitre.

DECISION:

1. Mr Suttle is a registered Owner Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Skedaddle Dennis" ("the **Greyhound**"). The Greyhound competed in race 1 of the Nowra meeting on 20 April 2025. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Ketoprofen.
3. Ketoprofen in excess of a mass concentration of 5 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 10 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine is a prohibited substance under Rule 146 of the Rules
4. On Monday 7 July 2025 Mr Suttle was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 7 July 2025 the decision makers charged Mr Suttle 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 Mr Suttle to attend a hearing on Tuesday 29 July 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.
7. On 28 July 2025 Mr Suttle contacted decision makers and;
 - Entered a plea of guilty; and
 - Provided written submissions
8. At the hearing held on Tuesday 29 July 2025 via Microsoft Teams Mr Suttle;
 - Made verbal submissions

9. In considering the matter, decision makers considered Mr Suttle'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 Suttle:

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

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

- Mr Suttle's guilty plea (25% reduction);
- Mr Suttle's cooperation and forthright evidence;
- Mr Suttle's 22-year registration record, with no prior prohibited substance offences; and
- GWIC penalty guidelines

11. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 1 at the Nowra meeting on 20 April 2025 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules

.....End.....