

To Media

03 July 2015

Ms. Karen Bearpark - Inquiry



During an inspection at licensed trainer Karen Bearparks property on Thursday 26th March 2015 a number of substances listed in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons contained in the Australian Poisons Standard, as amended from time to time were discovered in the kennel area on her property in addition to other substances that were of interest to stewards.

As a result all greyhounds trained by her at the time were prohibited from competing until further notice.

POWERS OF CONTROLLING BODY AND OFFICIAL OF CONTROLLING BODY

R14 Powers of Controlling Body and official of Controlling Body

(1) The Controlling Body may, without derogation of any of the powers set out in the Act or otherwise provided for in these Rules-

(c) prohibit any greyhound from competing in any Event if, in its opinion, that action is necessary for the proper control and regulation of greyhound racing;

Furthermore she was advised that the stewards intended to conduct an inquiry into the matter and would be advised of a time and date of such inquiry when all substances photographed or seized were identified and/or tested.

The analysis of all substances seized by Greyhound Racing SA (GRSA) Stewards was completed and final results received. As a result Ms Bearpark was directed to attend an interview with GRSA'S Senior Investigator on Thursday 28th May 2015 at 6.30pm, into the circumstances relating to the substances found.

The Stewards opened an inquiry on Thursday 2 July 2015 into the inspection conducted at her registered training premises on Thursday 26th March 2015 and the prescription medicines and other items said to have been found there during that inspection and related matters.

After taking evidence from a number of witnesses' stewards laid the following four (4) charges.

Charge 1

Rule 84(2)

Possession of prohibited substance

- (2)** A registered person who has in their possession at any place used in relation to the training or racing of a greyhound, any quantity of a prohibited substance commits an offence unless that substance has been registered or labelled, or prescribed, dispensed or obtained, in compliance with the relevant State or Commonwealth legislation. The Stewards may take possession of any of these substances or preparations to test and or destroy.

For the purposes of this Rule, if a prohibited substance is found at any place used in relation to the training or racing of a greyhound then any owner, trainer or attendant who owns, trains, races or is in charge of greyhounds at that place is deemed to have the prohibited substance in their possession.

Charges 2,3 and 4

Rule 79(A)(7)

Out of Competition Testing

- (7)** If any substance or preparation that could give rise to an offence under this rule if administered to a greyhound at any time is found at any time at any premises used in relation to the training or racing of greyhounds then any registered person who owns, trains or races or is in charge of greyhounds at those premises is deemed to have the substance or preparation in their possession and such person shall be guilty of an offence and liable to penalty.

Ms. Bearpark pleaded not guilty to all charges. As a result stewards adjourned the inquiry and reserved their decision to consider the submissions made in relation to the plea of not guilty.

Further Information:

Paul Marks (08) 8243 7130

Integrity and Standards Manager Greyhound Racing SA
