

10 February 2017

NOTICE OF INQUIRY RESULT

STEWARDS: L.G. Michalanney, D.J. Southgate, D. Jonas



Greyhound Racing South Australia Stewards today concluded an inquiry adjourned from Monday, 30 January 2017 into the analysis of two post-race urine samples taken from two greyhounds trained by Mr. Robert Halliday. The reserve portions of the urine samples were tested and the presence of COBALT was confirmed in excess of the threshold of 100ng/mL, according to GAR 83(10).

The first sample was taken from the greyhound HOMER which competed in and won Race 7 at Mount Gambier on Friday, 9 September 2016. COBALT levels in the sample were recorded as 131ng/mL and 134ng/mL.

The second sample was taken from the greyhound REDDA which competed in and won Race 1 at Mount Gambier on Friday, 14 October 2016. COBALT levels in the sample were recorded as 136ng/mL and 133ng/mL.

Evidence was taken from Mr. Paul Zahra (Scientific Manager at Racing Analytical Services Limited), Dr. Greg Moore (Veterinary Surgeon) and Mr. Halliday.

After considering the matter and all the evidence before them, Stewards believed there was sufficient evidence to issue two charges to Mr. Halliday with a contravention of GAR 83(2) which reads:

The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound –

(a) nominated to compete in an event;

shall present the greyhound free from any prohibited substance

(3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to sub-rule (2) shall be guilty of an offence.

Mr. Halliday pleaded guilty to both charges.

Mr. Halliday was disqualified for a period of six (6) months on each charge to be served concurrently. The disqualification period will commence at midnight on Sunday, 19 February 2017.

In assessing penalty Stewards initially considered a period of nine (9) months disqualification as a starting point, but took into consideration his pleas of guilt, his clean record in relation to offences under this Rule, the level of cobalt found in both the samples, the amount of time he has held a trainers licence, his personal circumstances, and his cooperation and forthrightness during the inquiry. However, Stewards considered this is a serious matter, they must ensure that the industry is a level playing field and there is a deterrent for himself and others in relation to this type of offence.

Furthermore, Stewards acting under GAR 83(4) disqualified HOMER from winning Race 7 at Mount Gambier on Friday, 9 September 2016, and disqualified REDDA from winning Race 1 at Mount Gambier on Friday, 14 October 2016, and directed that the placings in the races be amended accordingly.

Mr. Halliday was advised of his rights of appeal.

L.G. MICHALANNEY
ACTING HEAD OF INTEGRITY