

28 September 2022

**NOTICE OF
INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL
DECISION**

Ms Tamica Dunn

PANEL: Mr Timothy McGrath (Chair), Ms Tanya Johnston, Mr Graham Loch
STEWARDS: r Des Jonas, Chief Steward, Mr Derek Kordick, Risk & Compliance Manager

On 21st June 2022, Ms Tamica Dunn appeared before the Integrity Hearings Panel (IHP) in relation to two charges laid by Stewards -

Charge 1:

That on Saturday the 13th day of November 2021, at Angle Park in South Australia, you, being the trainer of the greyhound ZIGGY WAHWAH that was nominated to compete in an Event namely Race 2, Accell Therapy Open Maiden Series Heat 2 (342m, TGM), presented that greyhound not free of a prohibited substance namely COBALT.

- R83(2)(a), (3) and (10), *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*

And further,

Charge 2:

That on Saturday the 19th day of February 2022, at Angle Park in South Australia, you, being the trainer of the greyhound DENIS WAHWAH that was nominated to compete in an Event namely Race 1, Fresh Food Co Maiden Stake (342m, TGM), presented that greyhound not free of a prohibited substance namely 17-METHYLMORPHINAN-3-OL.

- R83(2)(a), (3) and (10), *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*

Address 55 Cardigan Street
Angle Park SA 5010
Postal PO Box 2352
Regency Park SA 5942
Phone 08 8243 7100

Email admin@grsa.com.au
Website greyhoundracingsa.com.au
ABN 39 094 569 525

Particulars

The following particulars were alleged by Stewards -

1. Ms Dunn was, at all relevant times, registered by Greyhound Racing SA as Trainer and a person bound by the Rules of Greyhound Racing for Greyhound Racing SA Limited.

In relation to charge 1, the particulars were -

2. Ms Dunn was at all relevant times the trainer of the registered greyhound ZIGGY WAHWAH.
3. ZIGGY WAHWAH was nominated to compete in Race 2, Accell Therapy Open Maiden Series Heat 2 (342m, TGM) conducted by the Adelaide Greyhound Racing Club at Angle Park on Saturday 13th November 2021 (**the Event**).
4. On Saturday 13th November 2021, Ms Dunn presented ZIGGY WAHWAH at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
 - (a) A post-race sample of urine was taken from ZIGGY WAHWAH at the Event (**the Sample**);
 - (b) COBALT was detected and confirmed in the Sample; and,
 - (c) The COBALT in the (confirmatory, reserve) Sample of canine urine was **168ng/mL**.
5. The *Certification of Prohibited Substance* confirms that COBALT is a prohibited substance. Pursuant to R83(10) of the *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*, COBALT above a mass concentration of **100 nanograms per millilitre** in a sample of urine taken from a greyhound will breach the provisions of R83(2) of the *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*.

In relation to charge 2, the particulars were -

6. Ms Dunn was at all relevant times the trainer of the registered greyhound DENIS WAHWAH.
7. DENIS WAHWAH was nominated to compete in Race 1, Fresh Food Co Maiden Stake (342m, TGM), conducted by the Adelaide Greyhound Racing Club at Angle Park on Saturday 19th February 2022 (**the Event**).
8. On Saturday 19th February 2022, Ms Dunn presented DENIS WAHWAH at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
 - (a) A post-race sample of urine was taken from DENIS WAHWAH at the Event (**the Sample**);
 - (b) 17-METHYLMORPHINAN-3-OL was detected and confirmed in the Sample.
9. The *Certification of Prohibited Substance* confirms that 17-METHYLMORPHINAN-3-OL is a prohibited substance. On 5 May 2022, the Laboratory Director at Racing and Analytical Services Ltd, advised that the substance is a compound that is a metabolite of the cough suppressant dextromethorphan.

Facts

As to the facts surrounding the charges, Ms Dunn provided the following explanations -

Charge 1

Ms Dunn produced a letter from Mr Michael Stewart. Mr Stewart works with their greyhounds in a joint venture. Mr Stewart prepares the meals. Mr Stewart stated, that as part of the meals, he used the product Feramo (the source of the cobalt). Mr Stewart stated he and Ms Dunn discussed the use of Feramo, and Mr Stewart was advised by Ms Dunn of the hazards of using Feramo and the effect it might have on cobalt levels.

Member Mr Loch raised with Ms Dunn the fact that, during a kennel inspection on 18/01/2022 Animal Welfare Officers recorded the presence of Feramo, and the notation "20ml scoop of Feramo (Michael would give 3 x the amount)" (as advised by Ms Dunn). Ms Dunn, on reflection, stated Michael would use, in essence, too much Feramo. Ms Dunn stated that after she received the notification of positive

sample, she (and Michael) stopped using Feramo altogether. Ms Dunn confirmed that for the evening meal prior to the race, the greyhound received Feramo (at the dosage reflected in the inspection report).

Charge 2

Ms Dunn stated she was treating another greyhound, WILLCOTT, for symptoms consistent with the onset of tonsillitis, from 15th February 2022, with cough medicine before the greyhound was physically examined by a veterinarian (and had the tonsils removed). Ms Dunn assumed that the medicine must have been ingested by DENIS WAHWAH (subject to charge 2) by unknown means. Ms Dunn did not think the greyhound DENIS WAHWAH was administered the medicine in error. Ms Dunn obtained the medicine from another person (a red liquid, purporting to be cough syrup, in a syringe), for use as a short-term measure until WILLCOTT could be seen by the veterinarian.

Antecedents

Ms Dunn has been registered since 2015 but has been involved with greyhounds her entire life (through her family). She is 41 and has a family. She operates 14 race kennels and training greyhounds is her occupation. She comes before the panel with no adverse history. Ms Dunn advised that after the positive sample notification, some owners removed their greyhounds from the kennels after the positive swab notation. Ms Dunn pleaded guilty to both charges, and Stewards submitted this was a timely plea. Ms Dunn cooperated fully with the Inquiry.

Discussion

As noted in previous Inquiries, the IHP is mindful of the underlying importance of presenting greyhounds free of prohibited substances. Presentation offences have been rightly condemned through past decisions of the Stewards; a stance that has been supported by the Racing Appeals Tribunal on many occasions. Such offences invariably result in suspensions or disqualifications. Matters will invariably differ in their surrounding circumstances and each matter turns on its own facts.

The IHP have now considered several matters involving prohibited substances on several occasions. The IHP have formed the view that this matter should be differentiated from those offences that have resulted in immediate suspensions and disqualifications. The IHP have formed this view, considering the antecedents and the principles under *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*, rule 169(4) and Local Rule 94.

Although a lenient approach should be sparingly considered when addressing matters involving prohibited substances, the IHP have formed a view, in all the circumstances, that this is indeed a case that is deserving of such an approach.

Penalty

In all the circumstances, the IHP have resolved to decide this matter as follows:

Charges 1 and 2

Ms Dunn will be suspended for a period of 10-months, taking into account Ms Dunn's early guilty plea and totality. Given the circumstances of the offence, and all matters personal to Ms Dunn, that the whole of the suspension will be fully suspended for a period of 12 months. In addition, Ms Dunn is fined \$600.00.

Charge 1

Pursuant to R83(4) of the *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*, ZIGGY WAHWAH is disqualified from the Event that was Race 2, Accell Therapy Open Maiden Series Heat 2 (342m, TGM) conducted by the Adelaide Greyhound Racing Club at Angle Park on Saturday 13th November 2021, where ZIGGY WAHWAH placed first.

Stewards direct that the placings in that Event be amended accordingly and that the **\$465.00** prizemoney won in that Event must be returned.

The amended placings are –

- 1st – Platinum King
- 2nd – Denis WahWah
- 3rd – Grab the Pizzas
- 4th – Deadly Sweet
- 5th – Sally Palms

Charge 2

Pursuant to R83(4) of the *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*, DENIS WAHWAH is disqualified from the Event that was Race 1, Fresh Food Co Maiden Stake (342m, TGM), conducted by the Adelaide Greyhound Racing Club at Angle Park on Saturday 19th February 2022, where DENIS WAHWAH placed first.

Stewards direct that the placings in that Event be amended accordingly and that the **\$465.00** prizemoney won in that Event must be returned.

The amended placings are –

- 1st – Granite Belt
- 2nd – Capital Venture
- 3rd – My Regal Lady
- 4th – Billy WahWah
- 5th – Alfie's Shed

To be clear, the period of suspension and fine were moderated to take into account totality, and, therefore, both charges are reflected in the one penalty. The suspension period is back dated to 21 June 2021, the date of the conviction.

Ms Dunn was advised of her right of appeal.



Timothy McGrath
GRSA INTEGRITY HEARINGS PANEL CHAIR