

Stewards' Report

Date:	Tuesday, 8 February 2022
Panel:	Mr W Hadley (Chairperson), Ms A Turner
Person:	Mr Sergio Livotto
Rule:	GAR 83(2)(a)
Charges:	Mr Sergio Livotto presented the greyhound Cool Hand Rick to compete in Race 3 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 21 November 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Hydrochlorothiazide
Penalty:	Six (6) week suspension wholly suspended for a period of twelve (12) months

On 8 February 2022, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Hydrochlorothiazide was detected in a urine sample collected from the greyhound Cool Hand Rick when it competed in, and won, Race 3 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 21 November 2021.

Submissions were made by Mr Sergio Livotto as the licensed trainer of Cool Hand Rick at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(2)(a), which provides:

The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound, nominated to compete in an Event, shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

The specifics of the charge are as follows:

That Mr Sergio Livotto, as the trainer of the greyhound Cool Hand Rick, did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed in, and won, Race 3 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 21 November 2021 and a urine sample collected from that greyhound was found, upon analysis, to contain the prohibited substance Hydrochlorothiazide.

Mr Livotto pleaded guilty to the charge and made brief submissions to the Stewards regarding penalty.

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mr Livotto's plea of guilty at the first available opportunity;
- Mr Livotto's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately forty (40) years;
- Mr Livotto's forthright evidence and cooperation;
- Mr Livotto's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches;
- Mr Livotto's reasonable explanation with supporting documentation as to how the substance came to be present in the greyhound's system;

- the nature of the prohibited substance;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- the need for both specific and general deterrence; and
- relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed a penalty of a six (6) week suspension of Mr Livotto's licence, with Stewards electing to wholly suspend the penalty for a period of twelve (12) months acting under Greyhound Australia Rule 95(3) conditional upon no similar breach of the rules.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(4), Stewards directed that Cool Hand Rick be disqualified from Race 3 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 21 November 2021 (1st place).

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly and Mr Livotto was advised that all prizemoney associated with this event must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Mr Livotto was advised of his right to an Internal Review.