

Stewards' Report

- Date:** Tuesday, 19 April 2022
- Panel:** Mr W Hadley (Chairman), Ms A Turner
- Person:** Ms Karen Davies
- Rule:** GAR 83(2)(a), GAR 101(2)(b)
- Charges:** Ms Karen Davies:
1. Presented the greyhound Sandy Titan to compete in Race 1 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 December 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
 2. Presented the greyhound Sandy Titan to compete in Race 3 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 23 December 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
 3. Permitted an unlicensed person to handle a greyhound under her control at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 21 February 2022
- Penalty:** Charge 1 and 2: Six (6) month suspension with four (4) months wholly suspended for twelve (12) months to be served concurrently
- Charge 3: Two (2) month suspension wholly suspended for twelve (12) months to be served cumulative to Charge 1 and Charge 2

On 19 April 2022, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 800 nanograms per millilitre in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Sandy Titan when it competed in Race 1 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 December 2021 and when it competed in Race 3 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 23 December 2021. Stewards further inquired into an unlicensed person handling a greyhound at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 21 February 2022.

Submissions were made by Ms Davies as the licensed trainer of Sandy Titan at the relevant times and as the trainer in control of the greyhound at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued the following three (3) charges pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules:

Charge 1: Issued pursuant to Greyhound 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 Charge 1 are as follows:

Ms Karen Davies, as the trainer of the greyhound Sandy Titan, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 1 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 December 2021 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Arsenic as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 800 nanograms per millilitre in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 10 December 2021.

Charge 2: Issued pursuant to Greyhound 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 Charge 2 are as follows:

Ms Karen Davies, as the trainer of the greyhound Sandy Titan, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 3 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 23 December 2021 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Arsenic as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 800 nanograms per millilitre in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 23 December 2021.

Charge 3: Issued pursuant to Greyhound Australasia Rule 101(2)(b), which provides:

An owner or trainer shall not permit an unlicensed person to handle on any racecourse, a greyhound owned by or pursuant to the control of the owner or trainer.

The specifics of Charge 3 are as follows:

Ms Karen Davies did permit an unlicensed person to handle a greyhound under her control at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 21 February 2022.

Ms Davies entered a plea of guilty to all three (3) charges and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Ms Davies' plea of guilty to all three (3) charges at the earliest available opportunity;
- Ms Davies' time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately six (6) years;
- Ms Davies' disciplinary history, noting one (1) prior breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(2)(a) in 2017;
- Ms Davies' forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being Arsenic;
- Ms Davies' explanation as to how the substance came to be present in the greyhound's system at a level in excess of the regulatory threshold;
- Ms Davies' explanation as to the handling of her greyhound by an unlicensed person;
- 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 the following penalties:

Charge 1: A six (6) month suspension of Ms Davies' licence, with Stewards electing under Greyhound Australia Rule 95(3) to wholly suspend four (4) months of the penalty for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no similar breach of the rules.

Charge 2: A six (6) month suspension of Ms Davies' licence, with Stewards electing under Greyhound Australia Rule 95(3) to wholly suspend four (4) months of the penalty for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no similar breach of the rules to be served concurrently with Charge 1.

Charge 3: A two (2) month suspension of Ms Davies' licence, with Stewards electing under Greyhound Australasia Rule 95(3) to wholly suspend the penalty for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no similar breach of the rules to be served cumulative to Charge 1 and Charge 2.

Stewards directed that Ms Davies' suspension is to commence at midnight on 19 April 2022 and is to expire at midnight on 19 June 2022.

Stewards permitted Ms Davies seven (7) days from midnight 19 April 2022 to transfer all greyhounds from her control, with Stewards permission being required for each transfer.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(4), Stewards directed the following:

1. that Sandy Titan be disqualified from Race 1 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 December 2021 (1st place); and
2. that Sandy Titan be disqualified from Race 3 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 23 December 2021 (1st place).

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly, and Ms Davies was advised that all prizemoney associated with these events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Ms Davies was advised of her right to an Internal Review.