

Stewards' Report

Date:	Thursday, 8 September 2022
Panel:	Ms A Turner (Chairperson), Mr A Flymen, Mr K Dean
Person:	Mr Andrew Wooler
Rule:	GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:	Mr Andrew Wooler presented the greyhound Good Boy Lloyd to compete in: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 4 June 2022 when it was not free of a prohibited substance2. Race 12 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 7 June 2022 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Pholcodine and Morphine
Penalty:	Three (3) month licence suspension

On 8 September 2022, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substances Pholcodine and Morphine were detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Good Boy Lloyd when it competed in, and won, Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 4 June 2022 and Race 12 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 7 June 2022.

Submissions were made by Mr Andrew Wooler during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Good Boy Lloyd at the relevant times.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued two (2) charges pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1)(a), which provides:

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

The specifics of Charge 1 were as follows:

That Mr Andrew Wooler, as the trainer of the greyhound Good Boy Lloyd, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 4 June 2022 with prohibited substances in its system, namely Pholcodine and Morphine as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 4 June 2022.

The specifics of Charge 2 were as follows:

That Mr Andrew Wooler, as the trainer of the greyhound Good Boy Lloyd, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 12 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 7 June 2022 with prohibited substances in its system, namely Pholcodine and Morphine as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 7 June 2022.

Mr Wooler entered a plea of guilty to both Charge 1 and Charge 2 and made brief submissions in respect of penalty.

In determining the matter of penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Wooler's plea of guilty to both charges at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Wooler's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately sixteen (16) years;
- Mr Wooler's explanation as to the likely source of the prohibited substances, being cough medicine designed for human consumption;
- Mr Wooler's disciplinary history, noting Mr Wooler had one prior breach of the same rule in December 2021;
- Mr Wooler's review of, and amendment to, his animal husbandry practices upon being notified of the positive samples (despite having made significant amendments to his animal husbandry practices as a result of his previous breach of the same rule);
- that Mr Wooler was not provided an opportunity to review and amend his animal husbandry practices prior to the second positive result as he was notified of the first positive result after 7 June 2022 (being the date of the second positive result);
- the nature of the prohibited substances, being Pholcodine and Morphine, with the presence of Morphine most likely arising as a result of Morphine being a metabolite of Pholcodine;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Wooler, noting his prior breach only a short time ago, and general deterrence to the wider industry; and
- relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed the following penalties:

Charge 1: Three (3) month licence suspension to commence at midnight on 8 September 2022 and to expire at midnight on 8 December 2022.

Charge 2: Three (3) month licence suspension to be served concurrently with the penalty in respect of Charge 1.

Stewards permitted Mr Wooler seven (7) days from midnight 8 September 2022 to transfer all greyhounds from his control, with Stewards permission being required for each transfer.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Good Boy Lloyd be disqualified from:

1. Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 4 June 2022 (1st place); and
2. Race 12 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 7 June 2022 (1st place).

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

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