

Stewards' Report

Date:	Tuesday, 23 April 2024
Panel:	Ms A Turner (Chairperson), Mr W Hadley, Ms B McErlean
Person:	Mr Nathan Evans
Rule:	GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:	Mr Nathan Evans presented the greyhound Emily's A Sort to compete in Race 5 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 15 February 2024 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Arsenic
Penalty:	Three (3) month licence suspension with six (6) weeks conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months

On 23 April 2024, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) 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 Emily's A Sort when it competed in, and won, Race 5 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 15 February 2024.

Submissions were made by Mr Nathan Evans as the licensed trainer of Emily's A Sort at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, stewards issued a charge pursuant to the 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 the charge were as follows:

That Mr Nathan Evans, as the trainer of the greyhound Emily's A Sort, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 5 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 15 February 2024 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 15 February 2024.

Mr Evans entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mr Evans' plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Evans' time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately five (5) years;

- Mr Evans' forthright evidence, frank admissions and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Evans' disciplinary history noting one prior breach of a similar nature in May 2019;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being arsenic, and the explanation provided as to the likely source of the substance, being the treated wood in the kennels and the feeding of sardines to the greyhound pre-race;
- Mr Evans' immediate review of, and amendment to, his animal husbandry practices upon being notified of the positive analysis;
- 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 Evans and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents;
- the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines; and
- the Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a three (3) month licence suspension with stewards electing under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) to suspend six (6) weeks of the penalty for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature with the penalty to commence on 27 April 2024.

Stewards permitted Mr Evans fourteen (14) days from 27 April 2024 to transfer all greyhounds from his care and custody, with Steward's permission being required for each transfer.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), stewards directed that Emily's A Sort be disqualified from Race 5 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 15 February 2024 (1st place).

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5), stewards further directed that Emily's A Sort be disqualified from Race 11 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 22 February 2024 (5th place), being a further event of the series in which Emily's a Sort had previously competed in when the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 800 nanograms per millilitre in the greyhound's post-race sample.

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

Mr Evans was advised of his right to a review of the decision.