

Stewards' Report

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| Date: | Tuesday, 1 October 2024 |
| Panel: | Ms A Turner (Chairperson), Ms B McErlean, Mr W Maher |
| Person: | Mr Shane Ellis |
| Rule: | GAR 141(1)(a) |
| Charges: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On 4 August 2024, Mr Shane Ellis presented the greyhound Brother's Keeper to compete in Race 10 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club when it was not free of a prohibited substance2. On 12 August 2024, Mr Shane Ellis presented the greyhound Brother's Keeper to compete in Race 10 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club when it was not free of a prohibited substance3. On 17 August 2024, Mr Shane Ellis presented the greyhound Brother's Keeper to compete in Race 6 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club when it was not free of a prohibited substance |
| Substance: | Dexamethasone |
| Penalty: | \$1,500.00 fine with \$750.00 conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months |

On 1 October 2024, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Dexamethasone was detected in:

1. a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Brother's Keeper when it competed in, and won, Race 10 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 4 August 2024;
2. a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Brother's Keeper when it competed in, and won, Race 10 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 12 August 2024; and
3. a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Brother's Keeper when it competed in, and won, Race 6 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 17 August 2024.

Submissions were made by Mr Shane Ellis as the licensed trainer of Brother's Keeper at the relevant times.

After considering the evidence, Stewards issued three (3) charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rules 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 each of the charges were as follows:

Charge 1: On 4 August 2024 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club, Mr Shane Ellis, as the trainer of the greyhound Brother's Keeper, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 10 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone.

Charge 2: On 12 August 2024 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club, Mr Shane Ellis, as the trainer of the greyhound Brother's Keeper, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 10 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone.

Charge 3: On 17 August 2024 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club, Mr Shane Ellis, as the trainer of the greyhound Brother's Keeper, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 6 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone.

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

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

- Mr Ellis' plea of guilty to all three (3) charges at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Ellis' time in the greyhound racing industry, being approximately thirty (30) years;
- Mr Ellis' forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Ellis' disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar nature;
- Mr Ellis' personal circumstances, noting that Mr Ellis primarily derives his income from the greyhound racing industry;
- the nature of the prohibited substance Dexamethasone;
- that a probable cause for the detection of the prohibited substance was ascertained;
- that Mr Ellis was not afforded an opportunity to review and amend his animal husbandry practices prior to receiving notice of the second (2nd) and third (3rd) positives;
- Mr Ellis' 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 Ellis 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, the Stewards imposed the following penalties:

Charge 1: A monetary penalty in the amount of \$1,500.00 with Stewards electing to wholly suspend \$750.00 for a period of twelve (12) months pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Charge 2: No penalty imposed.

Charge 3: No penalty imposed.

Stewards determined that no penalty be imposed in respect of Charge 2 and Charge 3 due to Mr Ellis not being afforded an opportunity to review and amend his animal husbandry practices prior to receiving notice of the second (2nd) and third (3rd) positives.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Brother's Keeper be disqualified from:

1. Race 10 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 4 August 2024 (1st place);
2. Race 10 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 12 August 2024 (1st place); and
3. Race 6 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 17 August 2024 (1st place).

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

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