

## Stewards' Report

<b>Date:</b>	Friday, 29 November 2024
<b>Panel:</b>	Mr A Spence (Chairperson), Mr D Broxham, Ms B McErlean
<b>Person:</b>	Mr Paul Sutton
<b>Rule:</b>	GAR 141(1)(a)
<b>Charges:</b>	1 - Mr Paul Sutton presented the greyhound Brocky's Ethics to compete in Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 5 September 2024 when it was not free of a prohibited substance 2 - Mr Paul Sutton presented the greyhound Bev Beach to compete in Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 September 2024 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
<b>Substance:</b>	Gabapentin
<b>Penalty:</b>	\$1500 with \$500 suspended for a period 12 months (\$1000 effective penalty)

---

On 29 November 2024, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance gabapentin was detected in post-race urine samples collected from the greyhounds Brocky's Ethics when it competed in Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 5 September 2024, and Bev Beach when it competed in Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 September 2024.

Submissions were made by Mr Paul Sutton during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Brocky's Ethics and Bev Beach at the relevant times.

After considering all 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 the charges were as follows:

Charge 1: That Mr Paul Sutton as the trainer of the greyhound Brocky's Ethics, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 5 September 2024 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely gabapentin, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, from a post-race urine sample.

Charge 2: That Mr Paul Sutton as the trainer of the greyhound Bev Beach, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 September 2024 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely gabapentin, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, from a post-race urine sample.

Mr Sutton entered a plea of guilty to both charges and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

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

- Mr Suttons plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Suttons time in the racing industry, being approximately 38 years
- Mr Suttons disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar nature;
- Mr Suttons good character, together with his forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Suttons personal circumstances, specifically that he is on a pension and greyhound racing is provides supplementary income;
- The nature of the prohibited substance, gabapentin,
- The need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- The need to safeguard the welfare of all animals that are or have been involved in racing
- The need for both specific deterrence to Mr Sutton and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents;
- The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines;
- The Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, the stewards impose the following penalties:

Charge 1: a fine of \$1500, however acting under the provisions of GAR 174(3), stewards ordered that \$500 of that penalty be suspended for a period of 12 months pending no further breach of a similar rule.

Charge 2: No penalty imposed.

In respect of the second charge, stewards have determined that no further penalty shall be imposed due to Mr Paul Sutton not being afforded an opportunity to review and amend his animal husbandry practices prior to receiving notice of the second positive.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Brocky's Ethics be disqualified from Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 5 September 2024 (first place).

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5), Stewards further directed that Brocky's Ethics be disqualified from Race 9 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 12 September 2024 (first place), being a further event of the series in which Brocky's Ethics had previously competed in when the prohibited substance gabapentin was detected in the greyhound's post-race sample.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Bev Beach be disqualified from Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 September 2024 (first place).

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly and advise that all prizemoney associated with these events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

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