

## Stewards' Report

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 March 2025

**Panel:** Mr Andrew Spence (Chairperson), Mr Daniel Aurisch, Mr Paul McLean

**Person:** Mr Malcolm Cuneo

**Rule:** GAR 141(1)(a)

**Charge:** Mr Malcolm Cuneo presented the greyhound Bankrupt Betty to compete in race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 October 2024 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.

**Substance:** Gabapentin

**Penalty:** \$1500

---

On 25 March 2025, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance gabapentin was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Bankrupt Betty when it competed in race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 October 2024.

Submissions were made by Mr Malcolm Cuneo during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Bankrupt Betty at the relevant time.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued a charge 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 charge were as follows:

That Mr Malcolm Cuneo as the trainer of the greyhound Bankrupt Betty did present that greyhound to compete in Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 October 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 Cuneo reserved his plea to the charge and made further submissions.

After considering all the available evidence the Stewards found Mr Cuneo formally guilty of the charge.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Cuneo's time in the racing industry, being approximately 55 years;
- Mr Cuneo's disciplinary history, noting Mr Cuneo has had one previous breach over 9 years prior;
- Mr Cuneo's good character, together with his forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- 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 Cuneo 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 imposed the following penalties:

A monetary fine of \$1500.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Bankrupt Betty be disqualified from Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 October 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 Cuneo was advised of his right to a review of the decision.