

# Stewards' Report

**Date:** Tuesday, 6 May 2025

**Panel:** Mr D Aurisch (Chairperson), Mr A Spence, Mr P McLean

**Person:** Mr Karl Buhner

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

**Charge:** Mr Karl Buhner presented three (3) greyhounds to race when they were not free of a prohibited substance.

**Substance:** Gabapentin

**Penalty:** \$1500

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On 6 May 2025, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Gabapentin was detected in three (3) urine samples collected from the greyhound East Coast when it competed in, and won, Race 6 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 10 October 2024, Eastly Breeze when it competed in, and won, Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound on 20 October 2024, and Eastly Bloom when it competed in, and won, Race 3 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club 23 October 2024.

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

Charge 1: As the trainer of East Coast, he did present that greyhound to compete in Race 6 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 in the post -race urine sample taken after winning on 10 October 2024.

Charge 2: As the trainer of Eastly Breeze, he did present that greyhound to compete in Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 20 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 in the post -race urine sample taken after winning on 20 October 2024.

Charge 3: As the trainer of Eastly Bloom, he did present that greyhound to compete in Race 3 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 23 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 in the post -race urine sample taken after winning on 23 October 2024.

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

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

- Mr Buhner's plea of guilty to the three (3) elements to the charge;
- Mr Buhner's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer;
- Mr Buhner's unblemished record;
- Consideration of the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines;
- Human Rights Act 2019
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants.
- The apparent contamination of these greyhounds from an injured greyhound he was treating with Gabapentin.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that as Mr Buhner was unaware of the discrepancy with the first sample taken from East Coast before Eastly Breeze and Eastly Bloom were sampled, Mr Buhner didn't have an opportunity to review his greyhound husbandry practices.

Subsequently, the Stewards issued one (1) penalty for the three (3) samples, with that being a fine of \$1500.

Acting under Greyhound Australasia Rule 141(4) East Coast, Eastly Breeze, and Eastly Bloom were disqualified from the following races:

- 10 October 2024 – East Coast at Ipswich GRC in race 6 (Heat)
- 20 October 2024 – Eastly Breeze at Brisbane GRC in race 1 (Heat)
- 27 October 2024 – Eastly Breeze at Brisbane GRC in race 1 (Final)
- 23 October 2024 – Eastly Bloom at Capalaba GRC in race 3

The prizemoney associated with these events will be recovered by Racing Queensland.

Mr Buher was advised of his right to appeal.