

# Stewards' Report – Jeff Crawford

**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, 16 September 2025

**Panel:** Mr Andrew Spence (Chair)  
Mr Daniel Aurisch  
Mr Anthony Flymen

**Person:** Mr Jeff Crawford

**Rule:** GAR 141 Greyhound to be free of prohibited substances  
(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of greyhound:  
(a) nominated to compete in an Event;  
must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

**Substance/s:** Betamethasone

**Charge:** Mr Jeff Crawford, as the trainer of the greyhound Bootin' Boodie, did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed in, and won, race 8 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 September 2024 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Betamethasone, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the pre-race urine sample.

**Plea:** Reserved.

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## Background & Submissions:

Bootin' Boodie was trained by Mr Jeff Crawford when it raced at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 September 2024. The greyhound was pre-race sampled and finished in second place. Both the Racing Science Centre and Racing Analytical Services Ltd confirmed the presence of Betamethasone in the urine sample. Betamethasone was not detected in the control sample.

Prior to and at the inquiry hearing, Stewards received both written and oral submissions from Mr Jeff Crawford and Mrs Jane Crawford with respect of the circumstances regarding Bootin' Boodie in the weeks leading up to the race. This included detailed treatment records and copies of prescription medications for Bootin' Boodie during the relevant period.

Stewards also took expert evidence from Dr David Blyde, QRIC Lead Canine Veterinarian and Dr Shawn Stanley, QRIC General Manager of Analytical Services at the Racing Science Centre.

The following timeline was established for treatment given to Bootin' Boodie:

1. Mid 2024 – Bootin' Boodie suffered from a recurrent ear infection that was not responding to various treatments.

2. Late august – Mr Crawfords kennel veterinarian sought advice from QRIC Lead Canine Veterinarian regarding the use of betamethasone ear drops for Bootin' Boodie to treat the recurrent ear infection.
3. 6 September 2024 – Prescription ear drop treatment finished for Bootin' Boodie.
4. 12 September 2024 – Bootin' Boodie completed first race after treatment. The greyhound was sampled for winning this race with no adverse findings in analysis at the Racing Science Centre.
5. 19 September 2024 – Bootin' Boodie was pre-race sampled in its second start back from treatment and placed second. This sample was analysed and detected betamethasone by both Racing Science Centre and Racing Analytical Services Ltd.

### **Finding of Guilt:**

Stewards assessed the following when determining the charge:

1. Mr Jeff Crawford was a licensed trainer with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission at all relevant times.
2. Mr Jeff Crawford was the registered trainer of Bootin' Boodie at all relevant times.
3. Bootin' Boodie was presented for, and competed in, race 8 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 September 2024 (the Event).
4. A pre-race urine sample was taken from Bootin' Boodie prior to competing in that Event and upon analysis had detected the presence of betamethasone.
5. Betamethasone was not detected in the control sample.
6. Therefore, Bootin' Boodie was not presented free of a prohibited substance for the Event.

Having considered all available evidence, Stewards were comfortably satisfied to the requisite standard that the charge was proven, and therefore formally found Mr Crawford guilty.

### **Penalty Submissions:**

At the Stewards Inquiry Hearing, Mr Crawford made oral submissions for consideration of penalty. In summary, Mr Crawford submitted that:

- greyhound racing is his only source of income and a penalty such as a suspension would impose a significant financial burden upon both him and his wife.
- every effort was made to properly consult with local and industry veterinarians regarding the appropriate treatment for Bootin' Boodie and that advice received was correctly followed.
- that treatment was documented properly in Bootin' Boodie's treatment records, which provided for giving the best possible explanation as to the source of the positive sample.
- every effort was made for the proper cleaning of the kennel area during the relevant period when the treatment was applied to Bootin' Boodie to prevent any cross-contamination with other greyhounds in the kennel.

- the greyhound was sampled the week prior, which returned a result of 'Nothing To Report'.
- betamethasone in low amounts in the ear drop ointment would not have a performance enhancing effect on the greyhound.
- he has no prior breaches and has an exemplary record.

### **Stewards Finding on Penalty:**

The Stewards considered the nature of betamethasone as evidenced by Dr David Blyde and Dr Shawn Stanley. It is required that for a substance to be prohibited it must be capable at any time of causing either directly or indirectly an action or effect, or both an action and effect, within one or more of the mammalian systems (GAR 137). It is therefore not required to prove that a substance is performance enhancing as submitted by Mr Crawford, simply that the substance can have an effect on a greyhound.

The Stewards also placed significant weight on the expert evidence of Dr Shawn Stanley, who provided the most likely circumstance of the prohibited substance being detected in the sample was from environmental recontamination of the greyhound from its own prescription medication.

The Stewards acknowledge Mr Crawford's cooperation and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry, the very well documented treatment records and his time in the greyhound racing industry of approximately 20 years, with no prior breaches and a generally excellent disciplinary record.

The Stewards also considered Mr Crawford's personal circumstances, and the impact different penalty types may have against him. Stewards considered the seriousness of prohibited substance rule breaches, and that any penalty imposed must serve as an appropriate deterrent specifically to Mr Crawford, but also to the wider greyhound racing industry.

The Stewards also considered the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants. Further, the need to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds that are involved in racing. Stewards noted that both greyhounds won their respective events.

The Stewards considered penalty precedents for similar prohibited substance matters involving the same substance, namely a penalty issued against trainer Rocky Crisafi by the Victorian Racing Tribunal in January 2025 resulting in a \$1500 fine, with \$500 wholly and conditionally suspended.

The Stewards also considered the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines (2023) that informs a starting penalty point for a Category 3 prohibited substance under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1) as being a \$2000 fine. As Mr Crawford reserved his plea the ordinary 25% reduction of this starting point was not invoked by Stewards.

### **Human Rights:**

Consideration was properly given to Mr Crawford's human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Mr Crawford may limit his rights to property. The Stewards also considered purpose of the imposition of a monetary penalty upon a person for breaching a rule of racing is to:

- maintain public confidence in the racing of animals in Queensland for which betting is lawful;
- ensure the integrity of all persons involved with racing or betting under the Racing Integrity Act 2016 or the Racing Act 2002;
- safeguard the welfare of all animals that are or have been involved in racing under the Racing Integrity Act 2016 or the Racing Act 2002.

Having regard to the other less restrictive penalties, it is considered that a caution or reprimand are not sufficient disciplinary options that enforce compliance and achieve the purposes outlined above. The sanction of a monetary penalty serves as a personal and general deterrent, encouraging all participants to comply with the rules of racing and promote drug free racing.

The Stewards therefore consider that any limitation imposed upon the licensee's right to property caused by the imposition of a monetary penalty outlined in the rules of racing, is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of the Racing Integrity Act 2016 and the fundamental purpose of the disciplinary system.

### **Penalty Decision:**

Having considered all the above, the Stewards find the appropriate penalty to be a monetary penalty of \$500.

### **Greyhound Disqualification:**

Acting under Greyhound Australasia Rule 141(4), Bootin' Boodie was disqualified from race 8 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 September 2024.

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

### **Appeal Rights:**

Mr Crawford was advised of his right to appeal the decision of the Stewards to the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel.