

Stewards' Report – Rodney Herr

Hearing Date: Thursday, 02 October 2025

Panel: Mr Anthony Flymen (Chairperson)
Mr Andrew Spence
Mr Daniel Aurisch

Person: Mr Rodney Herr

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.

Charge: Mr Rodney Herr, as the trainer of the greyhound Infra Terra, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 5 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 04 June 2025 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Firocoxib as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 04 June 2025.

Substance: Firocoxib

Plea: Guilty

Penalty: \$1,500.00 fine

Background & Submissions:

Infra Terra was trained by Mr Rodney Herr when it raced at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 4 June 2024. The greyhound was post-race sampled after winning its Event. Both the Racing Science Centre and Racing Analytical Services Ltd confirmed the presence of *firocoxib* in the urine sample. *Firocoxib* was not detected in the control sample.

During the inquiry hearing, held on 2 October 2025, Mr Herr submitted the following with supporting evidence:

- Infra Terra had previously in its racing career sustained two serious hind leg injuries, which required treatment and rehabilitation.

- Previcox, as evidenced by Mr Herr's treatment records, was given at certain times to racing greyhounds in his care after their races.
- Infra Terra was given Previcox as a treatment from its race prior to 4 June 2025.
- Mr Herr submitted that the shorter than normal period between this treatment and its race on 4 June 2025 was the most likely cause of the positive analysis.
- Mr Herr further submitted that once he had been made aware of the positive sample, he sought additional veterinary advice and has since changed his husbandry routine with racing greyhounds and has limited the use of Previcox to strict conditions in his kennel.

Penalty Submissions:

Mr Herr submitted that greyhound racing accounts for up to 80% of his income and is supplemented through maintenance work on other greyhound trainer's properties. He added that a suspension of his license would place significant pressures upon himself.

Mr Herr further submitted that he has been involved in the greyhound racing industry for approximately seventeen (17) years and had no prior breaches of a similar nature.

Mr Herr also submitted that the treatment of the greyhounds, as evidenced in his treatment records, was for the greyhounds welfare only, and that he was attempting to administer to affect the performance of the greyhound.

Stewards' findings on Penalty:

The Stewards acknowledge Mr Herr's cooperation and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry, the very well documented treatment records and his time in the greyhound racing industry of approximately 17 years. The Stewards also considered Mr Herr'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 Herr, 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.

The Stewards considered penalty precedents for similar prohibited substance matters, particularly those that have fallen with Category 3 of the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines (2023). Recent penalties issued against trainer Ricky Hassall by the QRIC stewards in February 2024 resulting in a \$1500 fine and Shane Ellis, who was fined by QRIC stewards \$1500 with \$750 wholly suspended conditional. Further, the Stewards considered that Mr Herr has had no prior breaches of the prohibited substance rules.

Human Rights:

Consideration was properly given to Mr Herr's human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Mr Herr 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 also considered that a suspension of Mr Herr's licenses would be excessive in the circumstances and would go beyond the purpose of deterrence as is required when issuing penalties.

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:

Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty to be imposed against Mr Herr was a fine of \$1500.

Greyhound Disqualification:

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Infra Terra be disqualified from Race 5 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 04 June 2025 (1st place).

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly, and Mr Herr was advised that all prizemoney associated with these events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Appeal Rights:

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