

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**  
**PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE PENALTY GUIDELINE AND RELEVANT INFORMATION**  
**PERTAINING TO PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE OFFENCES**

**1. Introduction**

This guideline has been formulated by GRV to provide advice to participants regarding prohibited substance-related offences. This advice not only extends to likely penalties for such offences – it also suggests a range of important considerations which participants should heed and implement to avoid the possibility of such offences occurring.

It is crucial for the proper functioning of greyhound racing that all greyhounds be presented for racing free of prohibited substances. Penalty imposition is undertaken by GRV Stewards in prohibited substance-related matters to protect the welfare and health of the racing greyhound, to ensure a level playing field for all participants, and to maintain the high credibility of greyhound racing in the eyes of the betting public.

**2. The nature of penalty guidelines**

Penalties for prohibited substance-related offences should not, and cannot be seen in any way as mandatory. Each prohibited substance-related offence is treated on an individual basis according to accepted procedural fairness and natural justice. While guidelines play a part in the imposition of penalty, so do other factors including the participant's industry record, evidence as presented and the prevailing circumstances that arise at any Inquiry or Appeal.

**3. Relevant rules**

The Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) – which are currently followed in Victoria – define a 'prohibited substance' as follows :

"prohibited substance" means a substance defined by the following criteria or which falls within any of the groups of substances declared herein unless it is an exempted substance.

- (a) any substance capable of affecting a greyhound by its action on the central or peripheral nervous system or any part of that system such as the autonomic nervous system, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, alimentary digestive system, musculoskeletal system, genitourinary or endocrine system and includes without limitation analgesics, antihistamines, anti-inflammatory agents, blood coagulants, diuretics, hormones and their synthetic counterparts, stimulants, corticosteroids, anabolic steroids, local anaesthetics, muscle relaxants and tranquillisers;

- (b) any substance administered to disguise or make undetectable, or attempt to disguise or make undetectable, the administration of any of the substance(s) referred to in paragraph (a);
- (c) a metabolite, isomer or artefact of any of the substance(s) referred to in paragraphs (a) or (b) irrespective of whether or not such metabolite, isomer or artefact has any pharmacological effect;
- (d) unusual or abnormal amounts of endogenous substance(s) including but not limited to cortisol and testosterone;
- (e) any substance(s) specified in Schedules 1 to 9 inclusive of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (Commonwealth) as amended from time to time.

'Exempted substance' includes the following substance(s) that are exempted from being prohibited substances:

1. Ethyloestrenol when administered orally to a greyhound bitch and where it has been prescribed by a veterinary surgeon for the sole purpose of regulating or preventing oestrus in that bitch.
2. Antimicrobials (antibiotics) and other anti-infective agents with the exception of procaine penicillin
3. Antiparasitics
4. Vaccines against infectious agents (definition added GRV 01.01.09)

The primary rules dealing with prohibited substance offences are GAR 83 and 84. These rules read as follows:

#### R83 Greyhound to be free of prohibited substances

- (1) A person who-
  - (a) administers, attempts to administer or causes to be administered a prohibited substance to a greyhound;
  - (b) aids or abets any person to administer a prohibited substance to a greyhound; or
  - (c) has prior knowledge of a prohibited substance being administered to a greyhound

for the purpose of preventing it from starting in an Event, affecting its condition, behaviour or performance in any Event or when subject to any other contingency provided for pursuant to these Rules, shall be guilty of an offence.

- (2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-
  - (a) nominated to compete in an Event;

- (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
- (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revoked

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

- (3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to sub-rule (2) shall be guilty of an offence.
- (4) A greyhound presented for an Event contrary to sub-rule (2) shall be disqualified from the Event or any benefit derived from a trial or test.
- (5) Where an Event is being or has been conducted as a series, if upon a single analysis a prohibited substance is found in a specimen-
  - (a) the greyhound shall be disqualified from the Event from which the specimen was taken and shall not be eligible to compete in any further Event in the series; and
  - (b) if the greyhound has competed in any further Event of the series the greyhound shall be disqualified retrospectively from the Event.  
(amended GRV 01.01.09)

#### R84 Possession of prohibited substance

- (1) For the purpose of this Rule “possession” means any form of personal physical possession, or the on site control/storage, of a prohibited substance.
- (2) An owner, trainer or handler who has in their possession at any place used in relation to the training or racing of a greyhound, any quantity of a prohibited substance commits an offence unless, a prescription for the prohibited substance which was issued by a veterinary surgeon who prescribed the prohibited substance for a particular greyhound after personally examining that greyhound is produced to the Stewards.

For the purposes of this Rule, if a prohibited substance is found at any place used in relation to the training or racing of a greyhound then any owner, trainer or attendant who owns, trains, races or is in charge of greyhounds at that place is deemed to have the prohibited substance in their possession. (amended GRV 01.01.09)

#### 4. Points to note from these rules

- A summary of GAR83(1) is that it deals with a person administering a prohibited substance to a greyhound. Generally, tribunals consider that a conviction under this rule is normally deserving of a greater penalty than

the penalty under GAR83(2), neither of which require proof of the administration.

- GAR83(2)(c) permits a sample to be taken from a greyhound presented for a re-vet.
- GAR83(4) indicates that a greyhound returning a positive prohibited substance sample shall be disqualified from the Event for which it was presented.
- GAR84 specifies that a licensed person is not permitted to stockpile prohibited substances which have not been specifically prescribed by a veterinarian for a particular greyhound.

## **5. Feeding**

Great care and vigilance must be taken in the feeding and training of greyhounds to ensure they are presented for racing free of prohibited substances.

Evidence at past Inquiries has suggested that contamination of meat with procaine (and other prohibited substances) can occur when livestock (cows, horses, pigs etc) are treated with procaine penicillin G shortly before they die. These animals often end up at the knackery, where the meat is processed as 'not fit for human consumption' and sold on as pet meat. Therefore, the potential for feeding contaminated meat is a serious concern. To avoid the possible detection of procaine (and other prohibited substances) in your greyhound, it is suggested that trainers be well aware of the risk of feeding knackery meat within 36-48 hours of racing. The risk may be small but is it worth the loss of a race due to an avoidable situation? It may be prudent to consider feeding 'clean' meat (i.e. chicken, kangaroo, human consumption meat) or no meat (using a commercial complete dry food) for 48 hours prior to racing. Taking these precautions may slightly increase the feed bill, but may well reduce the chances of a positive prohibited substance swab, leading to loss of prize money and a financial penalty or disqualification/suspension.

It is also strongly recommended that the feeding of bread containing poppy seeds, substances containing chocolate, liquids containing tea and/or coffee, and products from 'health food shops' should also be very carefully considered and perhaps avoided in the light.

This is not to suggest that any of these or other substance might be considered an 'inadvertent' positive per se, as each prohibited substance case must be considered on merit and there is clear evidence that some substances may appear in samples via a number of differing sources.

## **6. Veterinary Treatment**

Trainers should ensure their greyhounds are only treated with medications dispensed and prescribed for a particular patient, by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon. Veterinary advice should always be sought to further ensure these medications are being used properly, mindful of the requirements of the prohibited substance rules.

Additionally, trainers are advised to be vigilant regarding the use of non-veterinary human and over-the-counter products that can carry an inherent risk of offending the relevant rules of greyhound racing.

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## **7. Penalty guidelines**

### **Preamble**

These suggested penalties are linked to the pharmacological and behavioural effect on the performance capability of the racing greyhound.

### **CATEGORY 1 – GENERAL MEDICATIONS**

Examples – Anti-cramp, Anti-bacterial, Anti-spasmodic, simple Anti-cough, medications

These are often over-the-counter human or animal remedies.

PENALTY: Minimum - \$500 fine

### **CATEGORY 2 – PAIN-RELIEF MEDICATIONS**

Examples – Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), Local Anaesthetics, Corticosteroids.

These are mainly pre-race administrations undertaken for the purpose of alleviating or disguising a painful condition that could, if untreated, reduce the performance of the greyhound.

PENALTY: Minimum – One month disqualification as from the date of penalty imposed.

### **CATEGORY 3 – STIMULANTS AND DEPRESSANTS**

Examples – Caffeine, Prolintane, Heptaminol, Timolol, Alkaloids, Barbiturates.

These are largely administrations which can enhance or reduce the performance of the racing greyhound, and have no therapeutic pre-race indication.

PENALTY: Minimum – 6 months disqualification as from the date of penalty imposed.

### **CATEGORY 4 – PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

Examples – Amphetamine, Cocaine, Morphine, Erythropoietin, Anabolic Steroids

PENALTY: Minimum – 2 years disqualification as from the date of penalty imposed.

(In addition to any police charges).

## **8. Notes**

1. The likely source of the prohibited substance in question may be relevant in determining penalty.

2. As laid down by the GAR definition, the term 'prohibited substance' includes both the parent compound and its metabolites.
3. Generally, higher penalties will be considered for repeat offenders, and in cases where evidence of a deliberate administration may exist.