

Tasracing Integrity Unit

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Tasracing
Integrity Unit



STEWARDS DECISION

TASRACING INTEGRITY UNIT

and

Mr Francis Feeney

Date of hearing: 21/03/2025

Stewards Panel: Dominic Tyson (Chair); Mr G Griffin

Participant Licensed Greyhound Trainer Mr F Feeney

Rule: *Greyhound Australasia Rule 148*

Possession of a prohibited substance, exempted substance or other substance and other rules in relation to certain substances

- (2) *A person must not provide, possess, acquire, attempt to acquire, administer, attempt to administer or allow to be administered to a greyhound, any prohibited substance, exempted substance or other substance (including any other medication, medicine, injectable substance, supplement, herbal product or therapeutic good), that is not labelled, prescribed, dispensed and obtained in accordance with relevant Commonwealth, state and territory legislation.*

Charge: The particulars of the charge are that Mr Feeney as the trainer of Girls Only did administer a prescription medication namely Amoxyclav as part of its treatment prior to November 11th 2024, which had not been prescribed to that Greyhound by a registered Veterinary Surgeon.

Plea: Guilty.

Background: • Mr Feeney had advised the Steward's panel on Monday the 11th of November that Girls Only had been ill and that he had administered a penicillin-based medication without a prescription in an effort to alleviate the illness.

Penalty Considerations • Trainers need to comply with the rules for the integrity and image of the industry as well as the relevant State legislation. • Stewards are mindful of the need for participants to comply with the rules regarding prescription medications for the welfare of their animals. • Medications which are prescription only are to be administered by authorised persons who understand the substance and its effects and possible risks to the health of the animal being treated.

Penalty Submissions • Mr Feeney has had a trainer's licence since 2020.

He advised that he has been suffering with poor health recently.

He is a hobby trainer and his only source of income is a pension.

He has not offended under this rule before.

His actions were in his belief for the benefit and welfare of the Greyhound. •.

Reasons for Penalty: The Stewards are mindful that similar offences have been dealt with by way of a monetary penalty.

Mr Feeney's clean record under this rule.

Mr Feeney's forthright evidence at the inquiry. • •

Mr Feeney's admission of the offence and subsequent guilty plea at the inquiry.

Penalty: • Mr Feeney is fined \$1500 with \$1000 suspended for 12 months. If he offends again that suspended penalty will be activated, and he will be liable for further prosecution under the rule. Mr Feeney was advised of his right of appeal.