

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 11th June 2020

Stewards Panel: L Lord (Chair), M Hoyle, H Edgecombe

Name: Mr. Michael Sutcliffe

Track/Race: Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, LADBROKES BACK YOURSELF
Grade 6, 515M.

Date: 17th February 2020

Rule no: GAR83(2)(a); GAR83(1A)(a); GAR84A(4)(b)

Charge(s): In relation to GAR83(2)(a); The particulars of the charge are:

1. You, Mr. Michael Sutcliffe are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licenced by the Office of Racing Integrity Tasmania and are a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR).
2. You are, and were at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound STYLISH TRELOAR.
3. 'STYLISH TRELOAR' was nominated to; and did compete in; the LADBROKES BACK YOURSELF Grade 6 – 515M at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on the 17th February 2020 placing 5th. (The Event).
4. On 17th February 2020 you presented STYLISH TRELOAR at the Event when not free of a prohibited substance given that;
 - o A pre-race sample of urine was taken from 'STYLISH TRELOAR' at the Event (The Sample).
 - o Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

In relation to GAR83(1A)(a); The particulars of the charge are:

1. You, Mr. Michael Sutcliffe are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licenced by the Office of Racing Integrity Tasmania and are a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR).
2. You are, and were at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound STYLISH TRELOAR.
3. STYLISH TRELOAR was nominated to; and did compete in; the LADBROKES BACK YOURSELF Grade 6 – 515M at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on the 17th February 2020 placing 5th. (The Event).
4. You administered, or caused to be administered the prohibited substance MELOXICAM to STYLISH TRELOAR as evidenced by your own admissions during the inquiry and your treatment logbook.
5. On 17th February 2020 you presented STYLISH TRELOAR at the Event and;
 - o A pre-race sample of urine was taken from STYLISH TRELOAR at the Event (The Sample).
 - o Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.

In relation to GAR84A(4)(b); The particular of the charge are;

5. You, Mr. Michael Sutcliffe are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licenced by the Office of Racing Integrity Tasmania and are a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR).
6. You are, and were at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound STYLISH TRELOAR.

7. STYLISH TRELOAR was nominated to; and did compete in; the LADBROKES BACK YOURSELF Grade 6 – 515M at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on the 17th February 2020 placing 5th. (The Event).
8. You administered, or caused to be administered the prohibited substance MELOXICAM to STYLISH TRELOAR as evidenced by your admissions at today's inquiry and your treatment logbook.
9. On 17th February 2020 you presented STYLISH TRELOAR at the Event and;
 - o A pre-race sample of urine was taken from STYLISH TRELOAR at the Event (The Sample).
 - o Meloxicam was detected in the Sample.
10. You possessed, and administered a schedule 4 substance, specifically MELOXICAM, when not prescribed to the greyhound STYLISH TRELOAR by a veterinary prescription.

Prohibited Substance: MELOXICAM

Inquiry Decision: Mr. Sutcliffe was fined \$1,500.00 for the breach of GAR83(2)(a)

Mr. Sutcliffe's licence was Suspended for a period of three (3) months for the breach of GAR83(1A)(a) to commence immediately and expire midnight 10th September 2020.

Mr. Sutcliffe's licence was Suspended for a period of three (3) months for the breach of GAR84A(4)(b) to commence immediately and expire midnight 10th September 2020 to be served concurrently with charge 2.

STYLISH TRELOAR was disqualified from the Event with the placings to be amended accordingly.

FACTS:

Prohibited substance Meloxicam has been detected in a pre-race urine sample collected from STYLISH TRELOAR after it competed in and placed 5th in the LADBROKES BACK YOURSELF, Grade 6, 515 Metres at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on 17th February 2020 when trained by licenced trainer Mr. Michael Sutcliffe.

INQUIRY:

Commencing on the 9th June 2020 and continued on 11th June 2020, Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analysts, that Meloxicam had been detected in a pre-race urine sample taken from STYLISH TRELOAR at the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club on 17th February 2020.

Stewards heard verbal evidence tendered by trainer Mr. Michael Sutcliffe as to his treatment and husbandry practices and Dr Paul Zhara (Racing Analytical Services Limited). Verbal evidence was tendered by the Office of Racing Integrity Regulatory Veterinarian, Dr Adam Richardson, in relation to the effects of Meloxicam on greyhounds.

After giving due consideration to the evidence tendered, Mr. Sutcliffe was charged pursuant to GAR83(2)(a) for presenting STYLISH TRELOAR to race when not free of the prohibited substance Meloxicam.

Mr. Sutcliffe was charged pursuant to GAR83(1A)(a) for administering the prohibited substance Meloxicam to STYLISH TRELOAR.

Mr. Sutcliffe was also charged pursuant to GAR84A(4)(b) for possessing and administering a Schedule 4 substance, specifically Meloxicam, without being prescribed and dispensed by a qualified Veterinarian.

Mr. Sutcliffe pleaded guilty to all three charges.

When determining penalty, Stewards took the following things into account:

- Mr. Sutcliffe's guilty plea to all 3 charges.
- Mr. Sutcliffe's forthright and honest evidence leading up to; and during the inquiry.
- Mr. Sutcliffe's excellent conduct at the inquiry.
- Mr. Sutcliffe had documented all treatments including the Meloxicam administration given to STYLISH TRELOAR in his treatment book.
- His time and involvement in the industry.
- His clean offence record under these rules.
- The therapeutic nature of the prohibited substance being an anti-inflammatory.
- The seriousness of all 3 charges.
- The reckless decision to source a Schedule 4 substance from a non-veterinarian without a veterinary prescription.
- The reckless decision to administer the Schedule 4 substance Meloxicam, after obtaining it incorrectly and not possessing any lawful instructions on how to administer the substance and at what dosage, which ultimately led to the greyhound STYLISH TRELOAR returning a positive swab sample to the substance Meloxicam.
- That penalties issued for prohibited substance related breaches should act as a deterrent to all industry participants to ensure the integrity and image of the industry is maintained to a high standard.
- Precedence of breaches of the prohibited substance rules and penalties that have been issued for similar offences throughout Australia.

DECISION:

Charge 1: Mr. Sutcliffe was fined \$1,500.00 for the breach of GAR83(2)(a)

Charge 2: Mr. Sutcliffe's licence was Suspended for a period of three (3) months for the breach of GAR83(1A)(a) to commence immediately and expire midnight 10th September 2020.

Charge 3: Mr. Sutcliffe's licence was Suspended for a period of three (3) months for the breach of GAR84A(4)(b) to commence immediately and expire midnight 10th September 2020 to be served concurrently with the previous charge.

Acting under the provisions of GAR83(4); STYLISH TRELOAR was disqualified from the Event with the placings to be amended accordingly.