

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
17 January 2018

GREYHOUND TRAINER – RODNEY WALKER

On Wednesday 17 January 2018, Office of Racing Integrity Stewards concluded an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding a urine sample taken from the greyhound *Enfield Ellen* (trained by Mr Rodney Walker) at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club meeting on 25 May 2017. Upon analysis by Racing Analytical Services the sample was shown to contain the presence of Arsenic above the permitted threshold of 800 nanograms per millilitre.

Evidence was taken from the following people:

- Mr Paul Zahra, Scientific Manager, Racing Analytical Services;
- Dr Alicia Fuller, Regulatory Veterinarian, Office of Racing Integrity;
- Trainer Rodney Walker.

Mr Walker was charged and subsequently pleaded guilty under the following rule:

GAR Rule 83 (2) (a) which reads:

The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound – nominated to compete in an Event shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

In determining penalty Stewards took into account that Mr Walker had discovered that *Enfield Ellen* had chewed a considerable amount of timber in its housing. When Stewards informed Mr Walker of the positive sample and after carrying out a kennel inspection, a sample of recently chewed timber board was removed from the kennel of *Enfield Ellen* and upon analysis by a NATA approved Laboratory was found to contain Arsenic. Further to this, Stewards also took into account that this sample preceded the industry notice (CCA Timber as a source of Arsenic) issued by Office of Racing Integrity in September 2017 to industry participants warning trainers of allowing greyhounds access to products containing arsenic.

Evidence tendered by Dr Alicia Fuller Regulatory Veterinarian of the Office of Racing Integrity confirmed that the chewing of such timber could cause an elevated arsenic level in a greyhound.

Acting under the provisions of GAR Rule 83(4) *Enfield Ellen* was disqualified from the above-mentioned event with the placings to be amended accordingly.

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Michael Hoyle
Chairman of Stewards
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