

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

- Date of Decision:** 16 October 2020
- Stewards Panel:** L Lord (Chair), M Hoyle, H Edgecombe
- Name:** Mrs. Susan Gittus
- Track/Race:** Hobart Greyhound Racing Club, Race 7; GODFREY JOINERY Grade 5, 461m
- Date:** 13 August 2020
- Rule no:** GAR83(2)(a)
- Charge(s):** In relation to GAR83(2)(a); The particulars of the charge are:
1. You, Mrs. Susan Gittus 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 'FITZGERALD GRANT'.
 3. 'FITZGERALD GRANT' was nominated to; and did compete in; the GODFREY JOINERY Grade 5 – 461M at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on the 13 August 2020 placing 1st. (The Event).
 4. On 13 August 2020 you presented 'FITZGERALD GRANT' to compete at the Event when not free of a prohibited substance given that;
 - A post-race sample of urine was taken from 'FITZGERALD GRANT' at the Event (The Sample).
 - Dehydronorketamine was detected in the Sample.

Prohibited Substance: DEHYDRONORKETAMINE

Inquiry Decision: Mrs. Susan Gittus' licence was suspended for six (6) months for the breach of GAR83(2)(a). Of which four (4) months is suspended for twelve (12) months, under the provision that Mrs. Gittus does not re-offend under the same rule. This suspension is to commence immediately and expire 15 December 2020.

FACTS:

Prohibited substance DEHYDRONORKETAMINE has been detected in a post-race urine sample collected from FITZGERALD GRANT after it competed in and placed 1st in the GODFREY JOINERY, Grade 5, 461 Metres at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on 13 August 2020 when trained by licenced trainer Mrs. Susan Gittus.

INQUIRY:

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analysts, that Dehydronorketamine had been detected in a post-race urine sample taken from FITZGERALD GRANT at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on 13th August 2020.

Stewards heard verbal evidence tendered by trainer Mrs. Susan Gittus as to her 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 Dehydronorketamine on greyhounds.

After giving due consideration to the evidence tendered, Mrs. Susan Gittus was charged pursuant to GAR83(2)(a) for presenting FITZGERALD GRANT to race when not free of the prohibited substance Dehydronorketamine.

Mrs. Susan Gittus pleaded guilty to the charge.

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

- Mrs. Gittus' guilty plea to the charge.
- Mrs. Gittus' co-operation with the inquiry.
- Her time and involvement in the industry.
- Her clean offence record under these rules.
- The possibility that the positive sample was due to a contamination in meat supplies.
- The purchase of unregulated meat.
- 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: Mrs. Gittus was suspended for six (6) months for the breach of GAR83(2)(a). Of that four (4) months suspended for twelve (12) months under the provision that Mrs. Gittus does not offend under the same rule.

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