

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

**Name:** Mr Noel McCaskie

**Date received:** 5/11/2013

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- (i) The incidence of drug administration and doping in the industry and the efficacy of Greyhound Racing NSW's control and testing processes under the terms of reference.

I would like to bring to the attention of the inquiry about a banned substance I tested positive to, from a swab taken on the 19th September 2013. I feel that Greyhound Racing NSW needs to be totally overhauled and looked into. The banned substance in question is Pholcodine, an ingredient found in Benedryl Cough Medicine. I have yet to face an inquiry as I do not have a date as yet. The greyhound in question was given this medication for the sever kennel cough she had, as that is all I could obtain at the time, unbeknown to me it contained a Category 5 banned substance in it. This medication as far as I can find out does not affect performance in any way. What I have learnt is that what it does is tell the brain not to cough. I feel dirty that this has happened and that I would not administer anything that was harmful to the dog or illegal on purpose. The fact is that the swab was taken 5 weeks or more after the last dose was administered. Since being notified of the positive result I have tried to find out what the withholding period is on numerous websites including The Dogs website, and have asked my local Vet and others, and cannot seem to be given an accurate time frame. (NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW) How are we supposed to know?

I feel that GRNSW should take charge and more responsibility in providing new and current participants alike with a handbook outlining banned substances, and if they are allowed medicinal substances, and a withholding period if used.

I scratch my head wondering why an illegal hormone is used to keep bitches off season, yet, me trying to treat my sick dog with a cough mixture that does not affect performance is banned and carries a penalty.

I have admitted to my guilt and will take full responsibility for unknowingly giving medication that contained a banned substance, Pholcodine. This maybe one of many cases that will arise in the future due to the lack of adequate information supplied to participants regarding banned substances. It would be much appreciated if my submission was tabled by the inquiry, and I know for a fact that many participants would greatly appreciate more information on this topic, that may save any more unnecessary and upsetting incidents occurring. It seems pretty simple to me.

Also I would like to bring to your attention I am currently not a member of the Greyhound Action Group, but soon will be as I feel very strongly that the sport of greyhound racing needs a total overhaul. I am only a hobby trainer with 2 dogs that I bred to race for my own health benefits.

I hope that something positive comes out of this inquiry.

Kind regards,

Noel McCaskie