

## Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 20 September 2018:

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Woodworth CBE

Mr A Hunt

1. The Disciplinary Committee considered a number of cases in which positive drug tests revealed the presence of meloxicam in greyhounds tested in 2015 and 2016. The details of these tests and the arraigned parties are set out in the tables which follow.
2. A Table summarising the confirmed positive meloxicam findings below the Screening Limit in urine is as below:

<u>Barcode</u>	<u>Substance</u>	<u>Confirmed Date</u>	<u>Greyhound</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
GB051529	Meloxicam	02.11.15	Paradise Cuba	R Baker
GB057349	Meloxicam	15.12.15	Ardrahan Izzy	N Sexton (Sales Agent)
GB054210	Meloxicam	15.12.15	Hailles Boy	R Rees
GB059727	Meloxicam	29.01.16	Pennys Adios	M Dartnall
GB059724	Meloxicam	22.01.16	Humphreys Pride	M Dartnall
GB059365	Meloxicam	28.01.16	What Fun Jamie	M Dartnall
GB063473	Meloxicam	21.04.16	Brockville Pace	G Carmichael
GB057635	Meloxicam	12.01.16	Jet Stream Jack	K Hutton
GB065043	Meloxicam	26.04.16	Banse Moon	C Price
GB011362	Meloxicam	26.04.16	Romeo Grand	D Firmager
GB065031	Meloxicam	26.04.16	He No Daddy	S Buckland
GB057013	Meloxicam	05.05.16	Leave At Dawn	B Matthews
GB060289	Meloxicam	05.05.16	Caltra Lucy	A Dawson
GB061861	Meloxicam	04.07.16	Funny Customer	B Denby

GB067684	Meloxicam	03.08.16	Penniment Dani	B Denby
GB064525	Meloxicam	22.04.16	Market Heights	N Deas
GB067164	Meloxicam	10.06.16	Minglers Tiber	S Ralph

3. A table summarising the confirmed positive meloxicam findings above the Screening Limit in urine is as below:

<u>Barcode</u>	<u>Substance</u>	<u>Confirmed Date</u>	<u>Greyhound</u>	<u>Trainer</u>
GB053980	Meloxicam	23.07.15	Haidons Rocket	G Andreas
GB057306	Meloxicam	15.12.15	Redstone Marx	R Jones
GB054192	Meloxicam	26.11.15	Roxholme Dream	H Keightley
GB054348	Meloxicam	15.12.15	Swimmers Style	B Denby
GB067691	Meloxicam	06.07.16	Alfies Legacy	B Denby
GB060247	Meloxicam	22.02.16	Save The Don	K Sim
GB026037	Meloxicam	07.06.16	Turbo Connect	M Ryan

4. Each of the trainers/sales agent(s) named in the above tables has been sent a letter by GBGB setting out the proposed approach to be taken in their case. Each was offered the opportunity to have a full hearing of their inquiry by the Disciplinary Committee. None chose to do so. Consequently, the persons in attendance were Duncan Gibson, Manager of Welfare and Integrity Services, on behalf of the GRB and Professor Tim Morris, Independent Scientific Advisor.

#### *Background*

5. The background to this enquiry is that between March 2015 and April 2018, 152 meloxicam positives or screening findings were reported to the Greyhound Board by LGC, the Board's designated forensic laboratory. Of these 128 could be dealt with administratively, but the 24 cases listed above had progressed to the stage where under the GBGB rules of racing they had to be referred the Disciplinary Committee for determination. Investigations made by the Greyhound Board in 2015 established that other greyhound regulators, including Ireland and Australia, were also experiencing unusually high numbers of meloxicam findings and at low levels.

6. Following discussions with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV), a coordinated administration study between GBGB and GRV was undertaken in early 2016. The study was to look at the elimination profile of meloxicam in greyhounds.
7. The pharmacokinetic analysis of the administration study was undertaken by Dr Stuart W Paine at Nottingham University and his report: 'Pharmacokinetic Analysis for the Administration of Meloxicam to the Greyhound' was completed on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
8. Following several meetings of the GBGB's Doping & Medication Review Panel (DMRP) and through communications with veterinary and scientific advisors to GRV and Greyhounds Australasia, a harmonised Screening Limit in urine and plasma for meloxicam was recommended to their respective regulators.
9. Formal notice of these Screening Limits was given by GBGB to LGC on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, with those confirmed meloxicam positives and screening findings that had been held back awaiting the results of the administration study being reviewed in respect of this Screening Limit. Findings below the Screening Limit will be included in LGC's Service Delivery Report as screening findings only.
10. LGC confirmed on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 that there were 27 confirmed positive samples for meloxicam, including samples previously confirmed and before the results of the administration study were available.

#### *Meloxicam*

11. Meloxicam is available in the UK and Ireland as a licensed veterinary medicine, in a range of tablet, liquid for oral administration or injectable forms, from a number of different companies, for use in cats, dogs, horses, pigs and cattle.
12. Meloxicam chemically is in the class of drugs described as Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs). NSAIDs relieve pain, reduce fever and reduce inflammation. As such it is a drug which could affect the performance or prejudice the welfare of a greyhound.
13. Brand names for meloxicam include Metacam, Inflacam and Rheumocan.

#### *Administration Study Results*

14. The administration study raised issues as to the suitability of meloxicam as a drug for treating racing greyhounds within the confines of a "Drug Free Sport" and in accord with GBGB rule 217. The administration study had demonstrated that meloxicam may persist in the greyhound for up to 25 days, at levels significant in relation to medication control, following a single clinical dose.
15. It was established that residues of meloxicam may also be found in category 2 meat and if this meat is fed to racing greyhounds then drug residues may be found for up to 12 days, whilst a repeat feeding of contaminated meat will result in an accumulation of the drug which may then be detected for a longer period. Cooking does not remove the risk of meloxicam residues in meat.
16. The Greyhound Board issued a notice to trainers on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and within the Vet Record on 5<sup>th</sup> May stating that:
  - a) Meloxicam should not be used as an anti-inflammatory within 30 days of a race or trial;

b) Category 2 meat shall not be fed to racing greyhounds within 14 days of a race or a trial.

17. In light of the above the GRB proposed that based on the scientific evidence now available, the historical nature of these samples, and the study's finding of increased risk of meloxicam being found in the urine of greyhounds being fed meat contaminated with meloxicam and the findings of extended residues after veterinary use of meloxicam, all confirmed positives samples held back, but now known to be below the Screening Limit in urine shall, for the purpose of this hearing, be treated as **no fault findings**.
18. Further the GRB proposed that, based on the scientific evidence now available, the historical nature of these samples, and the study's finding of increased risk of meloxicam being found in the urine of greyhounds being fed meat contaminated with meloxicam and the findings of extended residues after veterinary use of meloxicam, all confirmed positive samples above the Screening Limit in urine shall, for the purpose of this hearing only, be considered as breaches of rules 152(i), 174(i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB rules of racing and the respective trainer shall, without prejudice, be **cautioned** for a breach of these rules with **no** financial penalty attached.

#### *The role of the Disciplinary Committee*

The Disciplinary Committee considered whether the approach suggested by the GRB was acceptable and in accordance with the GBGB rules of racing.

19. The Disciplinary Committee was greatly assisted by the oral evidence of Professor Morris and noted the following matters. Firstly, that had the positive meloxicam findings below the Screening Limit (paragraph 2 above) occurred after 17 May 2018 when notice of the formal Screening Limit was given to GBGB (paragraph 9 above) they would have been reported negative and included in LGC's Service Delivery Report as screening findings only. In those circumstances the Disciplinary Committee was satisfied that the proposal to treat them as no fault findings was fair and just in all the circumstances of the case.
20. Secondly, Professor Morris explained that the findings that residues of meloxicam may also be found in category 2 meat and if this meat is fed to racing greyhounds then drug residues may be found for up to 12 days, and that a repeat feeding of contaminated meat will result in an accumulation of the drug which may then be detected for a longer period, came as a surprise to GBGB. In particular, these findings resulted in positives where none would have been expected. He stated that repeated feedings of category 2 meat could result in a positive finding consistent with the administration of a therapeutic dose of meloxicam which is not something he would have expected prior to these findings. None of this was known at the time the positives above the Screening Limit (paragraph 3 above) occurred, so the proper advice could not have been given to trainers. In those circumstances whilst the Disciplinary Committee was satisfied that these positives did amount to breaches of rules 152(i), 174(i)((b) and 217 of the GBGB rules of racing the proposal to impose a caution and no financial penalty was fair and just in all the circumstances of the case.
21. Thirdly, the Disciplinary Committee noted with approval that the regulatory approach to meloxicam was the subject of international harmonisation. Greyhound Australasia veterinary and scientific advisors recommend that these limits be adopted, although they have yet to be incorporated into the Australian state regulators' rules.

22. The Disciplinary Committee noted that The Greyhound Board issued a notice to Calendar trainers on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and within the Veterinary Record on 5<sup>th</sup> May stating that:
- a) Meloxicam should not be used as an anti-inflammatory within 30 days of a race or trial;
  - b) Category 2 meat shall not be fed to racing greyhounds within 14 days of a race or a trial.
23. The Disciplinary Committee advised the notice to trainers should again be included in the next edition of the Calendar along with the results of this inquiry. The Committee hopes and expects trainers to heed and act on this advice in future.