

## Stewards' Report

- Date:** Tuesday, 14 July 2020.
- Panel:** Mr S. Kearney (Chair), Mr A. Kitching, Mr A. Spence.
- Person:** Mr Noel Murdoch.
- Rule:** GAR 83(2)(a).
- Charges:**
- (1) Presented the greyhound Classy Zoro to compete in race 10 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 17 February 2020 when not free of a prohibited substance.
  - (2) Presented the greyhound Classy Zoro to compete in race 10 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 2 March 2020 when not free of a prohibited substance.
  - (3) Presented the greyhound Stormy Shari to compete in race 3 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 23 March 2020 when not free of a prohibited substance.
  - (4) Presented the greyhound Classy Zoro to compete in race 3 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 30 March 2020 when not free of a prohibited substance.
- Substances:** dehydronorketamine & 4-hydroxy xylazine.
- Penalty:** 9 months disqualification with 7 months suspended for 24 months.

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On Tuesday, 14 July 2020 the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analyst's findings, which stated the prohibited substances dehydronorketamine & 4-hydroxy xylazine were present in post-race samples taken from Classy Zoro on 17 February 2020, 2 March 2020, and 30 March 2020 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club. A sample taken from Stormy Shari on 23 March 2020 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club also indicated an adverse analytical finding to dehydronorketamine.

Submissions were made by Mr Murdoch, the trainer of Classy Zoro and Stormy Shari.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued charges under GAR 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.*

**Charge 1:** *As the trainer of the greyhound Classy Zoro, Mr Noel Murdoch did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed at Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club in race 10 on 17 February 2020 and a sample taken from that greyhound was found upon analysis to contain the prohibited substances dehydronorketamine & 4-hydroxy xylazine.*

**Charge 2:** *As the trainer of the greyhound Classy Zoro, Mr Noel Murdoch did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed at Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club in race 10 on 2 March 2020 and a sample taken from that greyhound was found upon analysis to contain the prohibited substances dehydronorketamine & 4-hydroxy xylazine.*

**Charge 3:** *As the trainer of the greyhound Stormy Shari, Mr Noel Murdoch did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed at Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club in race 3 on 23 March 2020 and a sample taken from that greyhound was found upon analysis to contain the prohibited substance dehydronorketamine.*

**Charge 4:** *As the trainer of the greyhound Classy Zoro, Mr Noel Murdoch did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed at Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club in Race 3 on 30 March 2020 and a sample taken from that greyhound was found upon analysis to contain the prohibited substances dehydronorketamine & 4-hydroxy xylazine.*

Mr Murdoch pleaded guilty to the charges and made submissions on penalty.

Stewards considered the following in relation to penalty:

- A plea of guilty to the charges;
- The nature of the prohibited substances;
- Prior penalty precedents for the substances;
- Mr Murdoch's history in the industry being a trainer for almost 50 years;
- Mr Murdoch has an exemplary record with no prior breaches;
- Mr Murdoch has addressed changes to his husbandry practices; and
- The need to maintain integrity of greyhound racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants.

Accordingly, the QRIC Stewards issued the following penalty:

*A disqualification period of 9 months with 7 months suspended for 24 months.*

Stewards took into consideration that Mr Murdoch was placed under an interim suspension on 14 May 2020. Stewards ordered the start of the disqualification period be backdated to 14 May 2020 and to expire at midnight 14 July 2020 as time served.

Acting under the provisions of GAR 83(4), Classy Zoro and Stormy Shari were disqualified from their respective races with the placings amended accordingly. Stewards advised Mr Murdoch that all prizemoney received from these events be returned to Racing Queensland.

Mr Murdoch was advised of his right to an Internal Review.