

Stewards' Report

Date: Thursday, 12 August 2021
Panel: Mr G Meek (Chair), Mr R Doss
Person: Mrs Juanita Thompson
Rule: GAR 83(2)(a)
Charge: Mrs Juanita Thompson presented the greyhound Rosa's Memory to compete in race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 5 June 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance: Cobalt
Penalty: Twelve (12) months suspension with eight (8) months suspended for two (2) years

On 12 August 2021, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analyst's findings that the prohibited substance Cobalt was detected in a pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Rosa's Memory when it competed at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 5 June 2021.

Submissions were made by Mrs Juanita Thompson as the trainer of Rosa's Memory.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge under GAR 83(2)(a) which provides:

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.

Specifics:

As the trainer of the greyhound Rosa's Memory, Juanita Thompson did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club in Race 10 on 5 June 2021 when a pre-race urine sample collected from that greyhound was found, upon analysis, to contain the prohibited substance Cobalt.

Juanita Thompson was found guilty of the charge and made submissions to the panel regarding penalty.

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mrs Thompson's personal circumstances;
- Mrs Thompson's time in the greyhound racing industry, being approximately ten (10) months;
- Mrs Thompson disciplinary history, noting Mrs Thompson had no prior breaches of a similar rule;
- The nature of the prohibited substance, being Cobalt;
- The need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- The need for both specific and general deterrence; and
- Relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the Stewards issued the following penalty:

A suspension of Mrs Thompson's licence for a period of twelve (12) months. Stewards, acting under the provisions of GAR95(3), elected to wholly suspend eight (8) months for a period of two (2) years pending no similar breach of the rules. Mrs Thompson's suspension is to commence at midnight on 12 August 2021 until midnight on 12 December 2021.

Acting under the provisions of GAR 83(5)(b), Stewards directed that Rosa's Memory be disqualified from Race 10 at Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on Saturday, 5 June 2021.

Mrs Thompson was advised of her right to an Internal Review.