

Stewards' Report

Date: Wednesday, 8 March 2023

Panel: Mr W Hadley (Chairperson), Ms Aleisha Turner, Mr J Philp

Person: Mr Ashley Bock

Rule: GAR 156(h), LR 12 and GAR 151(1)

Charges: That Mr Ashley Bock, a licensed greyhound trainer and breeder:

1. Failed to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards in relation to greyhound racing at his registered kennel address between approximately 4 February and 23 February 2023.
2. Utilised a barking muzzle on two (2) greyhounds without the approval of the Controlling Body between approximately 4 February 2023 and 23 February 2023.
3. Failed to keep and retain written records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and treatments administered to the greyhounds in his care and custody at his registered kennel address on or around 4 February 2023 and 23 February 2023.

Penalty: Charge 1: Six (6) month licence suspension
Charge 2: Six (6) month licence suspension to be served concurrently with Charge 1
Charge 3: \$300.00 fine

On 8 March 2023, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry in respect of evidence obtained from a kennel inspection undertaken at the registered kennel address of licensed trainer Mr Ashley Bock on 4 February 2023 and 23 February 2023 regarding non-compliance with a Stewards Direction pertinent to the housing of the greyhounds in Mr Bock's care and custody, unapproved barking muzzles being utilised and Mr Bock's treatment records being non-compliant.

After considering all of the evidence, including submissions made by Mr Bock, Stewards issued three (3) charges pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules as follows:

Charge 1: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rules 156(h), which provides:

An offence is committed if a person:

Disobeys or fails to comply with a lawful order of a Controlling Body, the Stewards, or another person authorised by a Controlling Body with official duties in relation to greyhound racing.

The specifics of Charge 1 were as follows:

That Mr Ashley Bock, a licensed greyhound trainer and breeder, failed to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards in relation to greyhound racing at his registered kennel address between approximately 4 February 2023 and 23 February 2023 in that he failed to provide photographs clearly showing all of the greyhounds in his care and custody occupying suitable individual kennels with access to water, shelter, raised bedding and protection from heat/cold/rain as directed by Stewards on 4 February 2023 in that upon a further no-notice inspection on 23 February 2023 Stewards identified four (4) greyhounds being housed in a non-compliant trailer at Mr Bock's registered kennel address.

Charge 2: Issued pursuant to Queensland Local Rule of Racing 12, which provides:

In accordance with GAR30(2)(a), a barking muzzle may be approved by the controlling body for limited use provided that:

- (1) it does not completely close the greyhound's mouth and allows for reasonable jaw movement;*
- (2) is appropriately sized and fitted by a licensed person so as to not cause pain, injury or distress; and*
- (3) is utilised strictly under the conditions outlined in Schedule 1 of the Local Rules*

The specifics of Charge 2 were as follows:

That Mr Ashley Bock, a licensed greyhound trainer and breeder, utilised a barking muzzle on two (2) greyhounds between approximately 4 February 2023 and 23 February 2023 without the approval of the Controlling Body, with those barking muzzles being utilised on those greyhounds in further non-compliance with Schedule 1 of the Queensland Local Rules of Racing.

Charge 3: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 151(1), which provides:

The person in charge of a greyhound must keep and retain written records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and treatments administered to the greyhound:

- (a) from the time the greyhound enters their care until the greyhound leaves their care; and*
- (b) for a minimum of two years.*

The specifics of Charge 3 are as follows:

That Mr Ashley Bock, a licensed greyhound trainer and breeder, failed to keep and retain written records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and treatments administered to the greyhounds in his care and custody at his registered kennel address on or around 4 February 2023 and 23 February 2023.

Mr Bock entered a plea of guilty to all three (3) charges and made brief submissions to the Stewards regarding penalty.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Bock's plea of guilty to all charges at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Bock's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately twenty (20) years;
- Mr Bock's disciplinary history, noting one prior breach of the Greyhounds Australasia Rules for non-compliant treatment records in 2016;
- the nature of Mr Bock's offending, being non-compliance with a Stewards Direction issued in respect of the housing of greyhounds, the utilisation of unapproved barking muzzles and non-compliant treatment records, together with Mr Bock's submissions regarding the circumstances of the offending;
- that holding a licence within the greyhound racing industry is a privilege, not a right, and it is the participant's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the applicable rules and further to comply with his/her obligations under the applicable rules;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Bock and general deterrence to the wider industry; and
- relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed the following penalties:

Charge 1: A six (6) month licence suspension.

Charge 2: A six (6) month licence suspension to be served concurrently with Charge 1.

Charge 3: A fine in the amount of \$300.00.

Acting under Greyhounds Australasia Rules 174(5), Stewards deferred the commencement of the penalty to 13 March 2023. Further, Stewards permitted Mr Bock fourteen (14) days from 13 March 2023 to transfer all greyhounds from his care and custody, with Stewards permission being required for each transfer.

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