

# Stewards' Report

**Date:** Friday, 14 July 2023

**Panel:** Mr D Aurisch (Chairperson), Mr C Ferguson, Ms Sherry Barr

**Person:** Mr Graham Hall

**Rule:** GAR 141(1)(a)

**Charge:** Mr Graham Hall presented the greyhound Plum Tuckered to compete in Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 23 February 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.

**Substance:** Gabapentin

**Penalty:** \$2000

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On 14 July 2023, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Gabapentin was detected in a urine sample collected from the greyhound Plum Tuckered when it competed in, and won, Race 2 on 23 February 2023.

Detailed submissions were made by Trainer Mr Graham Hall during the inquiry.

Evidence was also taken from Dr Shawn Stanley, General Manager, Analytical Services, Racing Science Centre. Evidence was also taken from Dr Sally Colgan, Head of Veterinary Services, QRIC.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1)(a), which provides:

*The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound, nominated to compete in an Event, must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.*

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

That Mr Graham Hall, as the trainer of the greyhound Plum Tuckered, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 23 February 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Gabapentin as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 23 February 2023.

Ms Hall entered a plea of not guilty to the charge and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

In determining the matter of penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Hall's plea of not guilty to the to the charge;
- Mr Hall's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately forty (40) years;
- Mr Hall's disciplinary history, noting one (1) prior breach of a similar rule;
- Consideration of the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines;
- Human Rights Act 2019
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that a fine of \$2000 to be appropriate.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Plum Tuckered be disqualified from winning Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 23 February 2023.

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly, and Mr Hall was advised that all prizemoney associated with the events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Mr Hall was advised of his right to appeal.