

Stewards Hearing Report

Date of Hearing:	Tuesday 21 February 2023
Venue:	Horsham Greyhound Racing Club
Name:	Mrs Patricia Smith
Rule:	GAR 30(2)
Offence:	At the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club on 07 February 2023, a Barking Muzzle was used on the greyhound Taz's Classified, which is prohibited.
Officiating Steward:	Mr Peter Watson and Mr John Rea

REPORT

On 21 February 2023, GRV Stewards finalised an inquiry with Mrs Patricia Smith, whereby she applied and used a barking muzzle on the greyhound Taz's Classified at the Horsham Greyhound Racing Club meeting on 07 February 2023.

Evidence was taken from Trainer Mrs Patricia Smith. After considering all the evidence, Mrs Smith was issued with a charge under GAR 30 (2), which reads:

GAR 30 - Use of Barking Muzzles prohibited

(1) For the purpose of this rule "Barking Muzzle" means a muzzle of such description or other gear, equipment, apparatus or device, which in the opinion of the Stewards, was designed or intended to be used, in a manner that prevents or limits barking by restricting the ability of a greyhound to open its mouth.

(2) An offence is committed if a person uses a Barking Muzzle at any time, on any greyhound, unless:

(a) in circumstances approved by a Controlling Body; or

(b) used by a veterinarian for the sole purpose of examination or treatment.

(3) A person who breaches subrule (2) of this rule may be penalised.

The specifics of the charge were that at the Horsham Greyhound Race Meeting on Tuesday 07 February 2023, Mrs Smith used a Barking Muzzle on the greyhound Taz's Classified; the use of a Barking Muzzle at a race meeting not being a circumstance approved of the Controlling Body.

Mrs Smith pleaded guilty to the charge and was issued a fine of \$250. In determining penalty, Stewards took into consideration:

- Mrs Smith's personal antecedence and record with GRV.
- The plea of guilty and remorse shown by Mrs Smith.
- The circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence.
- General and specific deterrence and the nature of the offence.

The Stewards take this opportunity to remind all participants that the use of Barking Muzzles is prohibited unless in circumstances approved by the Controlling Body, which are detailed in

the Barking Muzzles Guidance and Barking Muzzles Policy. The limited penalty issued in this matter can largely be attributed to the recency of the rule, at the time this offence occurred. Although this rule was introduced on 1 May 2022, in the FAQs related to those rule changes, GRV determined a grace period was appropriate and that it would not enforce the rule for 3 months (until 1 August 2022) to allow participants to familiarise themselves with the rule and policy.

Whilst every case will continue to be judged on merit, Stewards caution all participants that penalties for future breaches of this rule may be far more significant for those who use a Barking Muzzle on a greyhound unless in circumstances approved by GRV, as detailed in the Barking Muzzles Guidance and Barking Muzzles Policy.

Therefore, this should not be regarded as a precedent.

https://greyhoundcare.grv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Local-Rules-FAQs_052022.pdf

<https://greyhoundcare.grv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Barking-Muzzles-Guidelines-and-Policy-1-May-2022.pdf>



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