

Investigative Stewards Hearing Report

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Date of Hearing: Wednesday 15th of January 2025
Venue of Hearing: Hearing conducted remotely
Name: Mr Aaron BLAKE (153085)
Date of offence: Tuesday 14th of January 2025

Rule: **Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 30**
Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 156 (w)

Officiating Investigative Stewards: Mr Brent SCARLETT

REPORT

On Wednesday, 15th of January 2025, Investigative Stewards held an Inquiry with Mr Aaron BLAKE (153085) considering two (2) charges relating to a kennel inspection conducted at his registered property in North Bendigo on Tuesday the 14th of January 2025.

It was alleged during the kennel inspection greyhound CHOJI AKIMICHI (VLNGV) was wearing a barking muzzle.

Further, it was alleged that conditions viewed during the kennel inspection were in contravention of section 6.7 of the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds.

On Wednesday 15th of January 2025, Investigative Stewards held a Stewards Hearing with Mr BLAKE relating to alleged breaches of the Greyhounds Australasia Rules. Mr BLAKE pleaded guilty to two (2) charges.

The charges are as follows:

CHARGE 1

Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 30

Relates to the application and use of a barking muzzle found fastened to greyhound CHOJI AKIMICHI (VLNGV) during a kennel inspection on the 14th of January 2025.

Mr BLAKE pleaded guilty to the charge. The charge was found proven.

Investigative Stewards found charge 1 proven and imposed the following penalty.

PENALTY

Charge 1

- Suspension of GRV licence and registration for a period of two (2) months, wholly suspended for a period of twelve (12) months pending no further breaches of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 30 and a \$1000 fine, \$500 of which was suspended for a period of twelve (12) months pending no further breaches of GAR 30.

CHARGE 2

NB: Steward Investigation/Hearing decisions are subject to Appeal under the Rules of Greyhound Racing.

Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 156 (w)

Relates to conditions observed during a kennel inspection on the 14th of January 2025, that were in contravention of section 6.7 of the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds.

Mr BLAKE pleaded guilty to the charge. The charge was found proven.

Investigative Stewards found charge 2 proven and imposed the following penalty.

PENALTY

Charge 2

- A \$500 fine was imposed, \$250 of which was suspended for a period of twelve (12) months pending no further breaches of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 156 (w).

TOTAL

- Suspension of GRV licence and registration for a period of two (2) months, wholly suspended for a period of twelve (12) months.
- \$1500 fine, \$750 of which was suspended for a period of twelve (12) months.

In determining penalty, Investigative Stewards considered several factors namely:

- Mr BLAKE's plea of guilty to both charges.
- Mr BLAKE's personal circumstances and his remorse.
- Mr BLAKE's prior disciplinary history.
- The circumstances surrounding both breaches.
- Specific and general deterrence.



Brent Scarlett
Investigative Steward
GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA