

12 March 2018

## **NOTICE OF INQUIRY RESULT**

**STEWARDS: L.G. Michalanney, D. Jonas, J. Evans**



On Wednesday 7 March, 2018, Greyhound Racing South Australia Stewards concluded an inquiry with Trainer and Breeder Mrs. Kathleen Johnstone into the splitting of a frozen semen breeding unit which was inseminated into the breeding females EXCUSEZ MOI and BANJO BLAZE. This resulted in two litters of greyhound pups from the one breeding unit.

Consideration was given to whether the BANJO BLAZE litter was entitled to be registered. Stewards made the determination to register the litter on the grounds of animal welfare. In relation to this outcome, it is not the intention by Stewards to establish a precedent in any future similar cases.

After considering the matter and all the evidence before them, Stewards issued two charges against Mrs. Johnstone under GAR 86(ag) which reads:

*A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-fails to comply with a policy adopted by a Controlling Body.*

and;

GAR 86(ac); which reads:

*A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-in the opinion of the Controlling Body, a person is guilty of neglect or of any dishonest, corrupt or improper act or practice in connection with the breeding or registration of greyhounds or has attempted any such practice.*

In relation to the first charge, Stewards deemed Mrs. Johnstone had failed to comply with a Greyhounds Australasia policy which supported GAR 128(3) in relation to retrospective splitting of frozen semen units.

Mrs. Johnstone was found guilty of the charge and was suspended for a period of six (6) months; with three (3) months suspended for a period of 24 months on the condition she does not reoffend under the same Rule. The suspension period will commence at midnight on Friday 16 March, 2018.

In relation to the second charge, Stewards deemed Mrs. Johnstone to have engaged in an improper act in connection with the breeding of greyhounds by failing to follow advice from the Controlling Body with which she is registered.

Mrs. Johnstone was found guilty of the charge and was fined \$10,000.

In assessing penalty, Stewards took into consideration Mrs. Johnstone's lengthy and unblemished involvement in the industry. However, Stewards note there must be specific and general deterrent in relation to this matter, as the Rules are in place to control and regulate the industry. Stewards also took into account the potential earnings from these litters is considerable - whether through sale or stake money. Finally, Stewards note the seriousness of both charges.

Mrs. Johnstone was advised of her rights of appeal.

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