

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 10 February 2025
Decision-makers: Senior Steward Kevin Adams and Steward Peter Phillips
Name of relevant person: Miss Jessica Savage
Date: 21 January 2025
Rule no: 30
Charge(s): Miss Savage used a barking muzzle in circumstances not approved by a Controlling Body
Plea: Guilty
Disciplinary action taken: To issue a suspension of 6 weeks.
With the suspension period to commence Wednesday 12 February 2025 and expire Wednesday 26 March 2025

INVESTIGATION:

1. Miss Savage was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer and Breeder with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On 21 January 2025 Miss Savage presented the greyhound Just Savage ("**Greyhound**") at the Gosford Greyhound Club for the purpose of competing in race 5.
3. Upon being brought to the attention of Stewards, it was identified that the Greyhound was wearing a muzzle modified to act as a barking muzzle.

DECISION:

4. On Thursday 6 February 2025 Miss Savage was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 6 February 2025 the decision makers charged Miss Savage with an offence under Rule 30 of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 30

(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.

6. The decision makers proposed a total penalty of an 8 week suspension and invited Miss Savage to a hearing to be held on Wednesday 12 February 2025.
7. On Friday 7 February 2025 Miss Savage contacted decision makers and;
 - entered a plea of guilty; and
 - provided written submissions
8. Following consideration of Miss Savage's plea and submissions, the decision makers found the charge proven and determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon her:

Charge 1 – Rule 30 - 6 Week Suspension

With the suspension period to commence Wednesday 12 February 2025 and expire Wednesday 26 March 2025

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:
 - Miss Savage's Guilty plea; and
 - Miss Savage's disciplinary record, with no prior like offences.

.....End.....