



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

- Date of decision:** Thursday 16 February 2023
- Decision-makers:** Director of Race Day Operations (Chief Steward) Wade Birch and Deputy Chief Steward Troy Vassallo
- Name of relevant person:** Ricky Christiansen
- Rule no.:** 174(7)(a)
- Charge(s):** Mr Ricky Christiansen was convicted and sentenced by the Belmont Local Court on 16 November 2022 for six charges brought against him under the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act ("POCTA") for failing to care for and provide necessary veterinary treatment to two retired greyhounds in his custody. The nature of the offending is such that his continued participation or association with the greyhound racing industry would be detrimental to the proper control and regulation of greyhound racing.
- Disciplinary action taken:** To disqualify his Owner License for a period of 3 years, with the time served by Mr Christiansen under interim suspension to be taken into account, from 14 June 2022, with the period of disqualification to expire on 13 June 2025.

INVESTIGATION

On 3 June 2022, two greyhounds were seized by RSPCA Inspectors at Mr Christiansen's registered address. Images of the greyhounds were considered by GWIC veterinarians and they were determined as being in an emaciated body condition. On 14 June 2022 the Commission imposed an interim suspension on Mr Christiansen.

On 16 November 2022, Mr Christiansen was convicted in the Belmont Local Court for six charges under the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act 1986. He received a period of

imprisonment, to be served by way of Intensive Correctional Order in the community, for each of these charges found against him.

DECISION:

1. Mr Christiansen is a registered Owner with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On 25 January 2023 Mr Christiansen was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
3. In the Notice issued on 25 January 2023 the decision-makers proposed a penalty of a 3-year disqualification of his Owner license and charged Mr Christiansen with the offence under Rule 174(7)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 174(7)(a), Rules

(7) A Controlling Body or the Stewards may impose on a person any one or more of the penalties referred to in subrule (1) of this rule if:

(a) the person has been convicted of an offence by any court and the Controlling Body is satisfied that:

- (i) the nature of the offence is such that the person's continued participation or association with greyhound racing would be detrimental to the proper control and regulation of greyhound racing; or
- (ii) the continued enjoyment of rights and privileges by the person would be prejudicial or contrary to the interests of a Controlling Body.

4. The Notice invited Mr Christiansen to attend a hearing on Thursday 2 February 2023 and to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
5. Mr Christiansen failed to attend the inquiry scheduled for Thursday 2 February 2023. The decision-makers scheduled another hearing for Tuesday 14 February 2023 however Mr Christiansen again failed to attend the inquiry.
6. The decision-makers conducted the hearing in Mr Christiansen’s absence and found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against him:

To disqualify his Owner license for a period of 3 years.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all evidence, including:
 - His failure to attend 2 scheduled hearings; and
 - The seriousness of the conviction issued by Belmont Local Court

.....End.....