

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 8 September 2021

Decision-makers: Alice Stafford, A/Senior Legal Officer, David OShannessy, Chief Inspector & Wade Birch, Director Race Day Operations (Chief Steward)

Name of relevant person: Mr Alan Dow

Date: 19 March 2021- 19 April 2021

Code : Standard 5.3, Standard 5.10, Standard 5.20 of the *NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice*

Charge(s):

- (1) Mr Dow failed to provide housing that was safe and provided for the well-being of greyhounds;
- (2) Mr Dow failed to provide housing that provided adequate protection for a greyhound housed within;
- (3) Mr Dow failed to provide housing and bedding that was safe, hygienic and clean for a greyhound.

Disciplinary action taken: Penalties to be served concurrently:

- Charge 1:** 6 months disqualification;
- Charge 2:** 6 months disqualification;
- Charge 3:** 6 months disqualification.

DECISION:

1. Mr Dow, at the material time being between 19 March 2021 and 19 April 2021, was a registered Owner Trainer.
2. On 19 March 2021 GWIC Inspectors attended at Mr Dow's registered kennel address ("**property**"). Following the inspection Mr Dow was issued with both verbal and written directions to address concerns identified by the Inspectors.
3. On 26 March 2021 GWIC Inspectors returned to the property to conduct a follow-up inspection. The Inspectors determined that Mr Dow had not addressed the concerns identified or complied with the directions issued. The Inspectors issued Mr Dow with further verbal and written directions.

4. On 19 April 2021 GWIC Inspectors again returned to the property and conducted a final inspection. The Inspectors again determined that Mr Dow had not addressed the concerns identified or complied with the directions given.

5. The Commission charged Mr Dow with contravention of three provisions of the *NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice* ("**Code**") which reads:

5.3 All greyhound enclosures, housing and sleeping areas must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that is safe and provides for the well-being of the greyhounds.

...

5.10 Greyhound housing areas must provide greyhounds adequate protection against extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, humidity, dampness, persistent loud noises, light pollution, noxious odours and draughts.

...

5.20 Greyhound housing areas and bedding must be maintained in a clean, hygienic and safe condition at all times.

6. Mr Dow pleaded guilty to all charges, provided written submissions, and elected to have the disciplinary proceedings conducted in writing.

7. The Commission considered all the available material and found that all three charges were proven.

8. The Commission took the following disciplinary action against Mr Dow:

Charge 1: To disqualify Mr Dow for a period of 6 months;

Charge 2: To disqualify Mr Dow for a period of 6 months;

Charge 3: To disqualify Mr Dow for a period of 6 months,

with the periods of disqualification to be served concurrently.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:

- The objective seriousness of the conduct and the previous directions given to Mr Dow on at least three occasions which were not complied with;
- The length of time Mr Dow has held a trainer registration in the greyhound racing industry, being since 2015, approximately 6 years;
- Mr Dow's lack of prior disciplinary history; and
- Mr Dow's admission of the charges at the earliest opportunity.

.....End.....