

18 December 2023

GWIC takes strong action in relation to animal cruelty matters

Following an investigation conducted by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (GWIC), Ms Kaylee Bool has been found to be in serious breach of animal welfare standards.

On 14 December 2023, Ms Bool was found guilty and sentenced by the Tamworth Local Court of a number of offences under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 following an investigation conducted by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission.

These offences included:

- Committing an act of cruelty upon an animal;
- Failure to provide veterinary treatment to an animal;
- Failure to provide proper and sufficient food, drink and/or shelter to an animal; and
- Failure to provide adequate exercise to an animal.

Ms Bool received the following sentence:

- A community corrections order for a period of 2 years;
- A substantial fine;
- 150 hours of community service; and
- A 5-year prohibition order pursuant to section 31 of the POCTA Act, preventing Ms Bool from having possession of any animal, or from being involved with the keeping or care of an animal owned by another person.

In announcing the penalties imposed on Ms Bool, GWIC's Chief Commissioner, Mr Alby Taylor, said it was evidence of how committed the Commission is to dealing with such matters.

"The Commission has a zero-tolerance approach to any participant found to be in breach of animal welfare standards and actions which serve to undermine the integrity of the sport and damage the reputation of the industry," Mr Taylor said.

"The conduct dealt with in this matter is totally unacceptable in the sport.

"The Commission has a robust regulatory framework and while commencing criminal charges under the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act is an action reserved for only the most serious of matters, it highlights our intent to take proper and appropriate actions when participants breach animal welfare standards.

"The Commission has a proven commitment to animal welfare and its focus on integrity underpins everything it does. It strives to be the leading global jurisdiction in greyhound racing welfare and integrity."

The Commission will now finalise its disciplinary action against Ms Bool, who is currently subject to an interim disqualification.

Mr Taylor said that this outcome should send the strongest possible message about how seriously GWIC, and the broader NSW greyhound racing industry, regards animal welfare and the integrity of the sport.

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