



**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

- Date of decision:** 8 December 2021
- Decision-makers:** Chief Inspector, David OShannessy, Senior Steward, Dean Degan & Acting Senior Legal Officer, Alice Stafford
- Name of relevant person:** Mr Harry Sarkis
- Date:** 5 March 2021; 30 April 2021; 26 May 2021
- Rule no.:** Rule 137(1)(b); Rule 137(1)(c)(i); Standard 3.12, Code of Practice ("**Code**"); Standard 3.13, Code; Standard 5.12, Code; Standard 5.12(a),(b), Code; Standard 3.14, Code; Standard 7.15, Code; Rule 84A(1).
- Charge(s):**
- (1) Mr Sarkis did not produce a C3 vaccination certificate for a litter of greyhounds for any vaccination given between 6-8 weeks of age;
  - (2) Mr Sarkis did not produce a C5 vaccination certificate for a litter of greyhounds for any vaccination given between 10-16 weeks of age;
  - (3) Mr Sarkis did not ensure that greyhounds in his care were vaccinated from the age of 6-8 weeks or were up to date with the vaccinations required;
  - (4) Mr Sarkis did not ensure greyhounds in his care were vaccinated against those diseases set out at Standard 3.13 of the Code of Practice;
  - (5) Mr Sarkis did not ensure that greyhounds in his care had appropriate sleeping arrangements in accordance with the requirements set out at Standard 5.12 of the Code of Practice;
  - (6) Mr Sarkis did not administer an effective internal and external parasite control program to greyhounds in his care;
  - (7) Mr Sarkis admitted to using a barking muzzle found in his possession on one of the greyhounds in his care;
  - (8) Mr Sarkis did not keep medical treatment records with respect to greyhounds in his care.

**Disciplinary action taken:**

Charge 1: \$750 fine;

- Charge 2: \$750 fine;
- Charge 3: Formal warning;
- Charge 4: Formal warning;
- Charge 5: \$500 fine;
- Charge 6: \$250 fine;
- Charge 7: \$200 fine;
- Charge 8: \$150 fine.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Sarkis was registered as a Public Trainer and Breeder within the greyhound racing industry at all material times.
2. On 10 January 2021 the greyhound 'Entreaty' ("**Greyhound**") whelped a litter of seven pups ("**litter**"). Mr Sarkis was the registered breeder of the litter.
3. On 24 February 2021 Mr Sarkis sent a Whelping Notice in relation to the litter with the Commission.
4. On 26 May 2021 GWIC Inspectors conducted a kennel inspection at the registered premises for Mr Sarkis. During that interview Mr Sarkis made admissions that despite the litter being approximately 19 weeks of age, the litter had not received any of the required vaccinations.
5. The Inspectors then conducted an inspection of the registered premises and discovered that the litter did not have any bedding in their sleeping area. The Inspectors then discovered three (3) barking muzzles in the kennel area. Mr Sarkis admitted to having used one barking muzzle a few days prior to the kennel inspection.
6. Further, Mr Sarkis was not able to provide treatment records relating to his greyhounds when asked to do so by the Inspectors.
7. On review of the evidence in this matter, the Commission charged Mr Sarkis under the Rules and Code of Practice. These respectively read:

**Rule 137(1), Rules:**

- (1) Application for registration of a litter whelped in the jurisdiction of a Controlling Body shall be made by lodging with the Controlling Body, within the prescribed time,

...

- (b) for pups whelped on or after 1 July 2015 a certificate of vaccination against parvovirus, hepatitis and canine distemper (C3) issued by a veterinary surgeon identifying the greyhound by reference to its sex and colour, that indicates that such vaccination was performed upon the greyhound at least between six (6) and eight (8) weeks.

...

- (c) (i) for pups whelped on or after 1 July 2015, a certificate of vaccination against parvovirus, hepatitis, canine distemper, parainfluenza virus and bordetella bronchiseptica (C5) issued by a veterinary surgeon identifying the greyhound by reference to its sex, colour, earbranding, and/or microchip identifications, that indicates that such vaccination was performed upon the greyhound between ten (10) and sixteen (16) weeks.

**Standard 3.12, Code:**

Participants must ensure that all greyhounds in their care are vaccinated from the age of 6-8 weeks, and that vaccinations are kept up to date.

**Standard 3.13, Code:**

Unless a veterinarian has provided contrary advice in writing, greyhounds must be vaccinated against:

- Distemper virus
- Parvovirus
- Canine Adenovirus
- Parainfluenza virus
- Bordetella bronchiseptica.

**Standard 5.12(a),(b), Code:**

Areas where greyhounds sleep must:

- (a) Include a raised bed or wooden pallet, which is large enough for the greyhound to lay down completely stretched out on;
- (b) be equipped with bedding that is warm, soft and dry; and made of materials that are safe for greyhounds and puppies;

**Standard 3.14, Code:**

Participants must administer an effective internal and external parasite control program (e.g. gastrointestinal worm, heartworm, ear mites, fleas and ticks) which is age appropriate, to all greyhounds in their care.

**Standard 7.15, Code:**

Barking muzzles must not be used. Any muzzle used on a greyhound must not restrict normal behaviour such as panting or drinking.

**Rule 84A(1), Rules:**

- (1) The person in charge of a greyhound must keep and retain records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and medical treatments administered to a greyhound from the time the greyhound enters their care until the greyhound leaves their care and for a minimum of two (2) years. Such record of treatment must be produced for inspection when requested by a Steward or a person authorised by the Controlling Body. Any person responsible for a greyhound at the relevant time who fails to comply with any provision of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

8. Mr Sarkis pleaded guilty to charges 1, 2 and 5-8, provided written submissions in response to the charges and elected to have the matter dealt with on the papers.

9. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Sarkis:

Charge 1 (Rule 137(1)(b):	To issue Mr Sarkis a fine in the sum of \$750.00;
Charge 2 (Rule 137(1)(c)(i):	To issue Mr Sarkis a fine in the sum of \$750.00;
Charge 3 (Standard 3.12, Code):	Formal warning;
Charge 4 (Standard 3.13, Code):	Formal warning;
Charge 5 (Standard 5.12(a), (b), Code):	To issue Mr Sarkis a fine in the sum of \$500.00;
Charge 6 (Standard 3.14, Code):	To issue Mr Sarkis a fine in the sum of \$250.00;
Charge 7 (Standard 7.15, Code):	To issue Mr Sarkis a fine in the sum of \$200.00;
Charge 8 (Rule 84A(1):	To issue Mr Sarkis a fine in the sum of \$150.00.

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence and submissions, including:

- The objective seriousness of Mr Sarkis's conduct;
- The length of time Mr Sarkis has held a trainer registration in the NSW greyhound racing industry, being since 1978, approximately 43 years;
- The lack of any relevant prior disciplinary history by Mr Sarkis;
- Mr Sarkis's admission to charges 1, 2 and 5-8 at the earliest opportunity; and
- The submissions made on Mr Sarkis's behalf.

.....End.....