

**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

**Date of decision:** 22 August 2019

**Decision-makers:** Director Legal Services, Matthew Tutt & A/Chief Steward, Gail Thorsby

**Name of relevant person:** Mr Arron Gould

**Track:** N/A – Non-meeting

**Dates:** 31 October 2018, 16 January 2019 & 19 February 2019

**Rule no.:** Rule 106(1)(a) x 1, Rule 106(1)(c) x 9

**Charge(s):**

(1-3). On 31 October 2018, under Rule 106(1)(c) Mr Gould failed to ensure that greyhounds in his care and custody were provided at all times with kennels constructed of a standard approved by the controlling body which are adequate in size and which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

(4-7). On 16 January 2019, under Rule 106(1)(c) Mr Gould failed to ensure that greyhounds in his care and custody were provided at all times with kennels constructed of a standard approved by the controlling body which are adequate in size and which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

(8). On 16 January 2019, under Rule 106(1)(a) Mr Gould failed to ensure that greyhounds in his care and custody were provided at all times with proper and sufficient food, drink and protective apparel.

(9-10). On 19 February 2019, under Rule 106(1)(c) Mr Gould failed to ensure that greyhounds in his care and custody were provided at all times with kennels constructed of a standard approved by the controlling body which are adequate in size and which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

**Disciplinary action taken:**

Charge 1 (31 October 2018):	3 months suspension
Charge 2 (31 October 2018):	3 months suspension
Charge 3 (31 October 2018):	3 months suspension
Charge 4 (16 January 2019):	6 months suspension
Charge 5 (16 January 2019):	6 months suspension
Charge 6 (16 January 2019):	6 months suspension

Charge 7 (16 January 2019):	6 months suspension
Charge 8 (19 February 2019):	12 months suspension
Charge 9 (19 February 2019):	10 months suspension
Charge 10 (19 February 2019):	10 months suspension

## **REPORT:**

Following advice from Commission Inspectors, the Commission conducted an investigation into the kennel inspections of Mr Arron Gould and Mr Arthur Fahey on 31 October 2018, 16 January 2019 and 19 February 2019.

On Thursday, 18 July 2019, this matter was heard before the Commission.

Mr Gould represented himself at the hearing.

Mr Gould pleaded guilty to 9 charges under Rule 106(1)(c) and one charge under R106(1)(a) of the Rules.

## **DECISION:**

1. On 31 October 2018, Commission Inspectors attended the registered kennels of participant's Mr Gould and Mr Arthur Fahey and found the condition of the kennels and surrounding premises was not in compliance of the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training. Directions were issued to rectify the kennels.
2. On 16 January 2019, Commission Inspectors conducted a further inspection. The kennels and outdoor areas were found to be in a similar condition.
3. On 19 February 2019, Commission Inspectors again attended the joint kennel premises. The condition of the kennels and surrounding areas were found to be in a condition that was not in compliance of the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training.
4. Mr Gould was charged with a total of nine (9) charges under R106(1)(c) in that his kennels were not constructed of a standard approved by the controlling body and which were not kept in a clean and sanitary condition, the conditions being:
  - (i) that the kennels did not have sufficient drainage (charge 1 and 4)
  - (ii) that there were open buckets of faecal matter and excessive debris at the premises (charge 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 10);
  - (iii) That there was inappropriate or insufficient bedding in the kennels (charge 9);

5. Further, Mr Gould pleaded guilty an offence under R106(1)(a) in that he failed to at all times provide proper and sufficient food and water, being a failure to provide an appropriate level of suitable water (charge 8).

### **Penalty**

6. Mr Gould made submissions in relation to penalty, including in relation to his registration and disciplinary history, his financial circumstances, his remorse, and his personal and financial circumstances. Written submissions and a number of character references were also tendered.
7. The Commission, after considering Mr Gould's submissions in relation to penalty, reserved its decision until 22 August 2019 and took the following disciplinary action against him:

Charge 1 (31 October 2018):	3 months suspension
Charge 2 (31 October 2018):	3 months suspension
Charge 3 (31 October 2018):	3 months suspension
Charge 4 (16 January 2019):	6 months suspension
Charge 5 (16 January 2019):	6 months suspension
Charge 6 (16 January 2019):	6 months suspension
Charge 7 (16 January 2019):	6 months suspension
Charge 8 (19 February 2019):	12 months suspension
Charge 9 (19 February 2019):	10 months suspension
Charge 10 (19 February 2019):	10 months suspension

8. All periods of suspension above were determined to be served concurrently. Further, it was determined for charges 8-10 that Mr Gould's suspension be suspended after he has served a period of 6 months suspension expiring 21 February 2020 and that the operational period for the suspended period of suspension be for a period up until 21 August 2020, being a period of a further 6 months.
9. Further, it was determined that before being eligible to recommence activities under his trainer registration following expiration of the suspension period on 21 February 2020, Mr Gould's kennels must be inspected to ensure they are compliant with the standards approved in the Commission's Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training.
10. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Gould's pleas of guilty to all charges as a demonstration of his remorse;
  - Mr Gould's lack of any disciplinary history;
  - That the offences did not relate to the condition of any greyhounds in his care, only the condition of the kennels;
  - Mr Gould's personal and financial circumstances.

.....End.....