

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	2 August 2021
Decision-makers:	Director Compliance & Legal Services, Matthew Tutt, Director Race Day Operations (Chief Steward), Wade Birch
Name of relevant person:	Ms Annette Yarnold
Track:	N/A
Rule no.:	Rule 14(1)(c)
Charge(s):	(1) The procedure of 'pin firing' was performed on the greyhound 'Chosen One' (" Greyhound ").
Disciplinary action taken:	To place a condition on the Greyhound's registration to prohibit it from competing in future greyhound races or trials.

DECISION:

1. On or about 7 February 2020, Ms Yarnold became the owner of the Greyhound. She became the trainer of the Greyhound on or about 26 May 2020.
2. On the evidence currently available, or about 28 October 2020, the Greyhound was taken to a veterinarian, where a procedure known as 'pin firing' was performed on the Greyhound.
3. 'Pin firing' is the process of an application of a thermal stimulus to the leg of a greyhound, with the intention of causing tissue damage and the development of scar tissue around the tendons and ligaments of the leg.
4. Pin firing is an unlawful act, namely being a contravention of section 21A of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW)* ("**POCTAA**").
5. The Commission issued a charge to Ms Yarnold under Rule 14(1)(c) to prohibit the Greyhound from competing in any future event, which reads:
 - (1) The Controlling Body may, without derogation of any of the powers set out in the Act or otherwise provided for in these Rules-
 - ...
 - (c) prohibit any greyhound from competing in any Event if, in its opinion, that action is necessary for the proper control and regulation of greyhound racing

6. Ms Yarnold was legally represented during the disciplinary proceeding. Ms Yarnold denied the charge, had written submissions provided on her behalf and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing. In the submissions, it was emphasised that Ms Yarnold did not complete the pin firing procedure herself and at all times relied on the advice provided to her by her veterinarian.

7. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action:

To place a condition on the registration of the greyhound 'Chosen One' pursuant to Section 59(1)(b) of the Act, with the condition being that the Greyhound be prohibited from competing in any future greyhound race or trial.

REASONS:

8. As pin firing is a criminal offence under section 21A of POCTAA, the continued racing of the Greyhound may cause reputational damage to the greyhound racing industry.

9. As pin firing is prohibited on welfare grounds, there is a welfare risk to other greyhounds in the greyhound racing industry that may undergo the procedure if the Commission were to allow a greyhound that has been subjected to the procedure to continue to compete in greyhound racing.

10. The Commission has placed this condition on the greyhound and will be in a position to review the ongoing applicability of this condition should further evidence or information be made available.

.....End.....