



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	31 August 2022
Decision-makers:	Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch, Director Compliance, Policy & Legal, Matthew Tutt and Legal Officer, Annalese Summerson-Hingston
Name of relevant person:	Mr Anthony Jeffress
Track:	N/A
Rule no.:	Local Rule 125(2)
Charges:	(1) Mr Jeffress left a dam whelping a litter of pups in the care of a person who was not a registered breeder; (2) Mr Jeffress left a dam and pup in the care of a person who was not a registered breeder;
Disciplinary action taken:	Charges proven and discharged on the condition no further breaches of the rules for a period of 12 months.

BACKGROUND

1. Mr Jeffress is a registered Owner and Breeder with the Queensland Racing and Integrity Commission.
2. In July 2021 GWIC received information in relation to an unregistered person raising greyhound puppies and having custody of a number of older greyhounds.
3. GWIC inspectors attended a property and interviewed the unregistered person, Mr Edwards.

Sheza Marvel

4. During the interview conducted by GWIC Inspectors, a female greyhound 'Sheza Marvel' owned by Mr Jeffress was located at the property.
5. In August 2020 Sheza Marvel whelped a litter at a veterinary clinic and returned to Mr Edwards property.
6. On 6 November 2020 Mr Jeffress submitted a Whelping Notice with the Commission listing a registered breeder, Mr Thurkettle as the whelper and the location of 'Sheza Marvel' and a pup from the litter as being at Mr Thurkettle's address. The pup was microchipped at this address.

7. Mr Jeffress provided financial assistance to Mr Edwards in relation to the care of Sheza Marvel and the pup as they remained in the care of the unregistered participant.

Meg's Marvel

8. In April 2021 another greyhound 'Meg's Marvel' owned by Mr Jeffress was delivered to the property of unregistered person Mr Edwards.
9. On 3 May 2021 'Meg's Marvel' whelped a litter of seven pups at the property of Mr Edwards. At the time of whelping, Mr Edwards was caring for 'Meg's Marvel' and assisted her with whelping the litter.
10. The seven pups remained in Mr Edward's care and custody from 3 May 2021 until 15 September 2021, when they were relocated to a registered participant's property at the Commission's request.

DECISION:

11. Mr Jeffress was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**") in relation to the charge, setting out the proposed disciplinary action to be taken and the grounds in support of that proposed disciplinary action. In the Notice, the decision makers charged Mr Jeffress with two breaches of Local Rule 125(2) the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Local Rule 125(2)

(2) A person must not:

- a) leave a dam whelping a litter of pups in the care of a person that is not a registered breeder; or
- b) leave an unnamed greyhound for the purposes of whelping or rearing in the care of a person who is not a registered breeder.

12. The Notice also charged Mr Jeffress with a breach of Rule 105(6), however prior to the disciplinary hearing this charge was withdrawn following a submission by Mr Jeffress.
13. On 31 August 2022 Mr Jeffress attended the hearing with the decision makers. Mr Jeffress entered a plea of guilty to the remaining two charges and made further submissions.
14. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Jeffress' plea and his written and oral submissions. The decision makers found charges 1 and 2 proven.
15. The decision makers made reference to Rule 177 when determining appropriate disciplinary action, which reads;

Rule 177

(1) A Controlling Body or the Stewards may, without proceeding to record a finding of guilt or imposing a penalty, discharge a person (so that no formal finding of guilt will be recorded against the person) if:

(a) a person is charged by a Controlling Body or the Stewards with a breach of the Rules; and

(b) the Controlling Body or Stewards are of the opinion that the charge is proved but that it is inappropriate to inflict any punishment on the person, or any more than a nominal punishment.

16. The decision makers determined to discharge Mr Jeffress, in accordance with Rule 177, on the condition he does not breach any further rules for a period of 12 months.

17. In taking this action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- The length of time Mr Jeffress has been registered in the greyhound racing industry, being since 1989, a period of over 30 years;
- Mr Jeffress' early admission to the charges. Decision makers accepted Mr Jeffress' submission that whilst he pleaded guilty and was guilty to the Rule, the breaches occurred due to misrepresentations made to him and that he was acting in good faith on the belief that Mr Edwards held the required registrations;
- Mr Jeffress' lack of any prior disciplinary history;
- The evidence given by witnesses including Commission staff and greyhound participants Mr Thurkettle and Mr York, as to their involvement in the matter;
- The decision makers exercised their discretion in invoking Rule 177, accepting that Mr Jeffress acted in good faith and had regard to the welfare of the greyhounds. However, the Commission requires all participants who have ownership of greyhounds to make all reasonable inquiries to ensure that greyhounds they own are in the care of registered participants.

.....End.....