

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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	2 August 2021
<b>Decision-makers:</b>	Director Compliance & Legal Services, Matthew Tutt, Director Race Day Operations (Chief Steward), Wade Birch
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Mr Bruce McIntosh
<b>Track:</b>	N/A
<b>Rule no.:</b>	Rule 14(1)(c)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	(1) The procedure of 'pin firing' was performed on the greyhound 'Black Missile' (" <b>Greyhound</b> ").
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	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 11 June 2020, Mr McIntosh became the owner and trainer of the Greyhound.
2. On the evidence currently available, sometime in 2019, 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 applying 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 Mr McIntosh, as the current owner of the greyhound, under Rule 14(1)(c), 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. Mr McIntosh pleaded not guilty to the charge, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing. In his submissions, Mr McIntosh emphasised that he did not have the greyhound pin fired but rather accepted the greyhound from its previous owner in good faith. Mr McIntosh also noted that the greyhound had raced on a number of occasions before evidence of pin firing was detected by the Commission.

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

To place a condition on the registration of the greyhound 'Black Missile' 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.....