



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 2 September 2021

Decision-makers: Chief Inspector, David OShannessy, Senior Steward, Dean Degan & Acting Senior Legal Officer, Alice Stafford

Name of relevant person: Mr Brad Prest

Date: 8 April 2020

Rule no.: Rule 106(2)

Charge(s): (1) On 8 April 2020 Mr Prest failed to exercise reasonable care and supervision of several greyhounds resulting in one greyhound suffering unnecessary pain or suffering which ultimately required euthanasia of the greyhound.

Disciplinary action taken: 12 month disqualification

DECISION:

1. At all relevant times, Mr Prest was a registered greyhound Owner Trainer.
2. On 8 April 2020 Mr Prest was employed by another registered participant to assist in the care of greyhounds at that persons' registered premises. Mr Prest was the person responsible for caring for the greyhounds on the property on that date.
3. During the morning, Mr Prest placed six greyhound brood bitches into the same yard. Included amongst these greyhounds was the greyhound 'Splendiferous' ("**Greyhound**"). None of the six greyhounds were wearing muzzles when placed in the yard.
4. Mr Prest then left the area of the property that the yard was located and returned approximately 30 minutes later.
5. When Mr Prest returned to the yard he discovered the Greyhound had sustained injuries. The injuries were consistent with having been involved in a fight with other greyhounds.
6. Mr Prest then notified his employer, and then transported the Greyhound to the local veterinary clinic.
7. Following veterinary advice the Greyhound was euthanased as a result of the injuries sustained.

CHARGE:

8. On review of the evidence in this matter, the Commission charged Mr Prest with a breach of Rule 106(2) of the Rules. This rule reads:

Rule 106(2), Rules

A registered person must exercise such reasonable care and supervision as may be necessary to prevent greyhounds pursuant to the person's care or custody from being subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering.

9. Mr Prest admitted the charge, provided written submissions in response to the charge and elected to have the matter dealt with on the papers.

PENALTY:

10. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Prest:

To disqualify Mr Prest for a period of 12 months.

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

- The objective seriousness of Mr Prest's conduct, resulting in the euthanasia of the greyhound;
- The length of time Mr Prest has held a trainer registration in the greyhound racing industry, being since 2019, a very short period of approximately 2 years;
- Mr Prest's disciplinary history being that he has no like matters on his record; and
- Mr Prest's admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity.

12. The decisions-makers found that the actions of Mr Prest fell very short of those expected, and indeed required, of a person who is responsible for providing care to a greyhound. It was found that Mr Prest's actions clearly did not prevent the Greyhound from being subject to pain or suffering.

13. Whilst Mr Prest was not properly supervising the Greyhound for a period of approximately 30 minutes this decision demonstrates that a failure to exercise proper care to a greyhound for any period, no matter how short, especially when enclosed with other greyhounds can have extremely serious consequences.

14. In keeping with the Commission's strict approach to matters of animal welfare the decision-makers determined that the only appropriate penalty was that of a 12 month disqualification

.....End.....