

17 August 2021

GWIC focus on pin-firing

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (GWIC) has issued a stern warning in relation to the illegal practice of pin-firing.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Steve Griffin, said allegations of greyhounds being pin-fired are deeply concerning.

“Both industry participants and veterinarians must be aware that the act of pin-firing is an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTAA) in New South Wales,” Mr Griffin said.

“There is no scientific evidence to support the practice of pin-firing, which is why it has been prohibited in NSW since 1997.”

Section 21A of POCTAA states that:

A person who applies a thermal stimulus (such as hot wires) to the leg of an animal with the intention of causing tissue damage and the development of scar tissue around tendons and ligaments of the leg is guilty of an offence.

“Having consulted with industry stakeholders including GRNSW, GBOTA, GIPAC, Greyhound Clubs NSW and the Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee, we know the industry condemns this illegal practice,” said Mr Griffin said.

“GWIC will continue to take action against participants who seek this as a form of treatment for their greyhounds, it is a serious breach of animal welfare legislation that can carry significant penalties under POCTAA.”

“Allegations of pin-firing are extremely serious and as part of our investigative process, any greyhounds that exhibit signs of pin-firing will not be permitted to participate in race meetings.”

“Anyone with information on suspected pin-firing practices should contact GWIC on 13 49 42, if you wish to remain anonymous you can contact us via our website.”

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