



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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	1 October 2024
<b>Decision-makers:</b>	Acting Chief Steward Dean Degan and Steward Paul Van Gestel
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Stephen Gardiner
<b>Rule no(s):</b>	R156(h), R156(w)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	<b>Charge 1 – R156(h)</b> Mr Gardiner did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to comply with a lawful order of a person authorised by the Controlling Body. <b>Charge 2 – R156(w)</b> Mr Gardiner did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to comply with Clause 9 of the NSW Greyhound Rehoming Policy.
<b>Plea:</b>	<b>Charge 1 – Not Guilty</b> <b>Charge 2 - Guilty</b>
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	<b>Charge 1 - To issue a suspension of 4 months.</b> <b>Charge 2 - To issue a disqualification of 12 months.</b>

With the two penalties to be served concurrently, with the suspension period commencing 1 October 2024, and expiring 1 February 2025, and the disqualification period commencing 1 October 2024 and expiring 1 October 2025.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Gardiner was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer and Breeder with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On 3 June 2024 Mr Gardiner attended the Bathurst office of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission. On that date he was given a verbal direction by a person authorised by the Controlling Body to arrange for two greyhounds in his care, Movealong Zayne and Movealong Yankee, to undertake a temperament assessment as required by the NSW Greyhound Rehoming Policy. Mr Gardiner failed to comply with this direction.

3. On 13 June 2024 Mr Gardiner arranged for the euthanasia of Movealong Zayne and Movealong Yankee. The euthanasia of these greyhounds did not comply with Clause 9 of the NSW Greyhound Rehoming Policy.
4. On 11 September 2024 Mr Gardiner was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”). The Notice issued two charges against him for breaches of the following Greyhound Racing Rules:

**Rule 156(h) Greyhound Racing Rules**

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

- (h) disobeys or fails to comply with a lawful order of a Controlling Body, the Stewards, or another person authorized by a Controlling Body with official duties relating to greyhound racing

**R156(w), Greyhound Racing Rules**

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

- (w) fails to comply with a policy or code of practice adopted by a Controlling Body

5. The Notice invited Mr Gardiner to attend a hearing on 1 October 2024, and to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charges and proposed penalties. The penalties decision makers proposed were:

**Charge 1 Rule 156(h) – To issue a suspension of 6 months**

**Charge 2 Rule 156(w) – To issue a disqualification of 24 months**

6. On Tuesday 1 October 2024 Mr Gardiner attended a hearing held via Microsoft Teams and;
  - Entered a plea of Not Guilty to Charge 1;
  - Entered a plea of Guilty to Charge 2; and
  - Provided verbal and written submissions

7. Following consideration of Mr Gardiner’s pleas and submissions, the decision-makers found the charges proven and determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

**Charge 1 Rule 156(h) – To issue a suspension of 4 months**

**Charge 2 Rule 156(w) – To issue a disqualification of 12 months**

With the two penalties to be served concurrently, with the suspension period commencing 1 October 2024, and expiring 1 February 2025, and the disqualification period commencing 1 October 2024 and expiring 1 October 2025.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all evidence, including:
- Mr Gardiner’s pleas of Guilty to Charge 1 and Not Guilty to Charge 2;
  - Mr Gardiner’s 42-year registration history, with no prior penalties for any like offences; and
  - Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.

.....End.....