

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 16 March 2020
Decision-maker: Judith Lind, Chief Executive Officer
Name of relevant person: Ms Melinda Finn
Track: N/A – non-meeting
Rule no: Rule 86(ae)(ii)
Charge(s): (1) On 19 January 2019, Ms Finn had in her possession at her registered kennels 2 shock collars.
Disciplinary action taken: \$300 fine (wholly and conditionally suspended)

DECISION:

The Commission has finalised their investigation into the possession of 2 shock collars by trainer Ms Melinda Finn on 19 January 2019:

1. Ms Finn, at the material time being on 19 January 2019, was a registered trainer.
2. On 19 January 2019, Commission Inspectors inspected the kennels of Ms Finn, shared with another registered participant, and located two shock collars, and associated batteries, in the meal preparation area of the kennel area, not on the body of any greyhound or other animal. A total of 2 shock collars were surrendered to the Inspectors.
3. The Commission charged Ms Finn under Rule 86(ae)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Racing, which reads:

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-

...

(ae)(iii) have in his possession any gear, equipment, device, substance or any other thing capable of inflicting undue suffering on a greyhound.
4. Ms Finn was notified of the charge in writing. Ms Finn admitted the charge and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission, after considering all available material, including Ms Finn's admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity, found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms Finn:

To impose a fine in the sum of \$300 wholly suspended for 12 months on the condition that Ms Finn does not breach Rule 86(ae) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules or section 16(2)(c) of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW) in that period.

6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
- Ms Finn's length of time as a registered trainer in the greyhound racing industry;
 - Ms Finn's disciplinary history – in that she did not have any like matters on her disciplinary history;
 - Ms Finn's admission at the earliest opportunity; and
 - Ms Finn's cooperation with the Commission's Inspectors and inquiry.

.....End.....