



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 28 May 2020
Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind
Name of relevant person: Miss Nikki Ryan
Track: N/A – non meeting
Date:
Rule no.: Rule 86(ag)
Charge(s): (1) - (6) Miss Ryan failed to comply with clause 4.1 of the GWIC Greyhound Re-homing Policy dated 2 July 2018
Disciplinary action taken: (1) – (6) 18 months disqualification served concurrently [with 12 months suspended due to period of interim suspension served]

DECISION:

1. Miss Ryan was at all material times, a registered greyhound trainer.
2. On 27 February 2019, GWIC received a report that Miss Ryan had ceased attending upon and caring for her six (6) greyhounds kennelled at another participant's property. The other participant had been caring for the greyhounds in the absence of Miss Ryan.
3. GWIC Inspectors made several attempts to contact Miss Ryan throughout the months of April and May 2019 in relation to the six (6) greyhounds.
4. Miss Ryan failed to make genuine reasonable attempts to rehome the six (6) greyhounds she was not able to retain. Clause 4.1 of the GWIC Re-homing Policy states:

In order to meet re-homing requirements, at a minimum greyhound owners must do at least two of the following:

- *Seek the greyhound's admission to the Greyhounds As Pets program managed by Greyhound Racing new South Wales;*
- *Seek to re-home the greyhound through at least one other pet rescue or re-homing organisation; and*
- *Seek to re-home the greyhound privately, through at least two other unrelate parties, or seek the greyhound's admission to the Greyhound's As Pets program a second time.*

5. Miss Ryan failed to respond to any attempt by GWIC Inspectors to contact her in relation to the greyhounds.
6. On 20 May 2019 the greyhounds were delivered to the RSPCA Broken Hill shelter and subsequently entered the Greyhounds As Pets program.
7. After considering the evidence following completion of the Commission's investigation, the Commission charged Miss Ryan with six (6) breaches of Rule 86(ag), which reads:
A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-
...
(ag) fails to comply with a policy adopted by a Controlling body.
8. Miss Ryan was notified of the charges in writing but did not respond.
9. The Commission found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Miss Ryan:

Charge 1 (Rule 86(ag)): 18 months disqualification;
Charge 2 (Rule 86(ag)): 18 months disqualification;
Charge 3 (Rule 86(ag)): 18 months disqualification;
Charge 4 (Rule 86(ag)): 18 months disqualification;
Charge 5 (Rule 86(ag)): 18 months disqualification;
Charge 6 (Rule 86(ag)): 18 months disqualification

with:

- The disqualification periods to be served concurrently; and
 - 12 months suspended due to the period of interim suspension served; and
 - The remaining period of disqualification to be served, commencing* on 28 May 2020 and expiring at 12:00am on 28 November 2020.
10. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - The objective seriousness of the conduct involving Miss Ryan's failure to comply with the GWIC Re-homing Policy for six (6) greyhounds registered to her under her Owner Trainer registration;
 - The relatively short period of time that Miss Ryan had held a registration in the greyhound racing, being since 21 December 2016;
 - Miss Ryan's prior disciplinary history – she did not have any like matters on his disciplinary history;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
 - The period of time that Miss Ryan has served under an interim suspension; and

- The need for specific and general deterrence.

.....End.....