



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 21 July 2020
Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind
Name of relevant person: Miss Casie O'Neil
Track: N/A – non meeting
Date: 29 January 2020
Rule no.: Rule 86(ag)
Charge(s): (1) Miss O'Neil failed to comply with clauses 5 and 12 of the GWIC Greyhound Re-homing Policy dated 1 December 2019.
Disciplinary action taken: 20-week suspension (wholly and conditionally suspended)

DECISION:

1. Miss O'Neil was, at all material times, a registered greyhound trainer.
2. Miss O'Neil was, at all material times, the owner and trainer of the greyhound 'Shake the Sand' ("**Greyhound**").
3. On 29 January 2020, the Greyhound was euthanased by a veterinarian. Miss O'Neil failed to make genuine attempts to rehome the Greyhound before it was euthanased in accordance with clause 5 of the GWIC Re-homing Policy dated 1 December 2019 ("**Policy**") and failed to lodge an *Intent to Euthanase Greyhound Notification* form lodged for the Greyhound.
4. On 4 February 2020, a *Euthanasia of Greyhound Notification Form* was received by the Commission in relation to the Greyhound. The reason given for the euthanasia of the Greyhound was 'Medical Euthanasia' and 'Illness' with the following details handwritten in further explanation:

"Aggression shown towards other people (children)".
5. After considering the evidence following the completion of the Commission's investigation which includes evidence Miss O'Neil had only attempted to rehome the Greyhound with one pet rescue or re-homing organisation rather than the Greyhounds as Pets program in the first instance, the Commission charged Miss O'Neil with a breach of Rule 86(ag) which reads:

Rule 86(ag)

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

...

(ag) fails to comply with a policy adopted by the controlling body.

6. On 2 July 2018 the Commission introduced an earlier version of the Policy, updated on 1 December 2019. The Policy requires registered owners to comply with clause 5 and clause 12 of the Policy in relation to specific rehoming and notification requirements. Clause 5 and clause 12 of the Policy read:

5. Rehoming requirements

A greyhound owner must make genuine attempts to rehome any greyhound that they do not wish to retain. If an owner is unable to rehome the greyhound privately, they must first seek the greyhound's admission to the Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) program. If the greyhound is not admitted to the GAP program, the owner must then:

- seek to rehome the greyhound through at least one other pet rescue or rehoming organisation; or
- seek the greyhound's admission to the GAP program a second time.

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12. Notification requirement

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Where an owner of a greyhound has complied with the rehoming requirements in clause 5 and 6, and the owner intends to have the greyhound euthanased, the owner must, at least 10 business days before the greyhound is to be euthanased, notify the Commission of their intention by lodging a completed *Intent to Euthanase Greyhound Notification* form.

7. Miss O'Neil provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
8. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Miss O'Neil:

To suspend her registrations for a period of 20 weeks, wholly suspended for a period of 12 months on the condition that Miss O'Neil does not breach Rule 86(ag) of the Rules during that 12-month period.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
- Miss O'Neil has been a registered trainer for approximately 17 years;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;

- Miss O'Neil has no prior matters in his disciplinary history;
- Miss O'Neil's submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to her personal circumstances, an explanation for her conduct and her remorse.

.....End.....