



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 2 August 2021

Decision-makers: Director Compliance & Legal Services, Matthew Tutt, Director Race Day Operations (Chief Steward), Wade Birch

Name of relevant person: Mr Jade Murray

Track: N/A

Rule no.: Rule 14(1)(c)

Charge(s): (1) The procedure of 'pin firing' was performed on the greyhound 'Rommel' ("**Greyhound**").

Disciplinary action taken: To place a condition on the Greyhound's registration to prohibit it from competing in future greyhound races or trials.

DECISION:

1. On or about 1 September 2020, Mr Murray became the owner and trainer of the Greyhound.
2. On the evidence presently available, on or about 12 October 2020, the Greyhound was taken to a veterinarian, where a procedure known as 'pin firing' was done on the Greyhound.
3. 'Pin firing' is the process of an application of a thermal stimulus to the leg of a greyhound, with the intention of causing tissue damage and the development of scar tissue around the tendons and ligaments of the leg.
4. Pin firing is an unlawful act, namely being a contravention of section 21A of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW) ("**POCTAA**").
5. The Commission issued a charge to Mr Murray under Rule 14(1)(c) to prohibit the Greyhound from competing in any future event, which reads:
 - (1) The Controlling Body may, without derogation of any of the powers set out in the Act or otherwise provided for in these Rules-
 - ...
 - (c) prohibit any greyhound from competing in any Event if, in its opinion, that action is necessary for the proper control and regulation of greyhound racing

6. Mr Murray was provided with an opportunity to respond. The Commission did not receive any response.

7. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action:

To place a condition on the registration of the greyhound 'Rommel' pursuant to Section 59(1)(b) of the Act, with the condition being that the Greyhound be prohibited from competing in any future greyhound race or trial.

REASONS:

8. As pin firing is a criminal offence under section 21A of POCTAA, the continued racing of the Greyhound may cause reputational damage to the greyhound racing industry.

9. As pin firing is prohibited on welfare grounds, there is a welfare risk to other greyhounds in the greyhound racing industry that may undergo the procedure if the Commission were to allow a greyhound that has been subjected to the procedure to continue to compete in greyhound racing.

10. The Commission has placed this condition on the greyhound and will be in a position to review the ongoing applicability of this condition should further evidence or information be made available.

.....End.....