



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 26 October 2021

Decision-makers: Chief Inspector, David OShannessy, Senior Steward, Dean Degan & Acting Senior Legal Officer, Alice Stafford

Name of relevant person: Mr Charlie Micallef

Date: 14 December 2020

Rule no.: Rule 136(3); Local Rule 125(2)(b)

Charge: (1) On 14 December 2020 Mr Micallef advised the GWIC registration team that he had moved a litter of pups from the registered address to another property prior to the pups being earbranded or microchipped;

(2) On 14 December 2020 Mr Micallef advised the GWIC registration team that he had moved a litter of pups to a location where they were not under the supervision of a registered Breeder.

Disciplinary action taken: Charge 1: \$750 fine;

Charge 2: 8-week suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months.

DECISION:

1. At all relevant times, Mr Micallef was a registered greyhound Public Trainer and Breeder.
2. On 23 October 2020 Mr Micallef submitted a whelping notice in relation to a litter of Mount Royal x Ritza Lenny ("**the litter**") that listed the location of a specific registered address.
3. On 14 December 2020 Mr Micallef contacted the GWIC registration team and advised that the litter had been relocated to an address other than the registered address listed on the whelping notice. This second property was not registered to any participant holding a Breeding registration.
4. Mr Micallef made admissions that he had relocated the litter prior to earbranding and microchipping to an address not registered to a registered Breeder. He stated that he did so as they were too noisy to remain where they were registered to be located at.
5. On review of the evidence in this matter, the Commission charged Mr Micallef with a breach of the Greyhound Racing Rules. These rules respectively read:

Rule 136(3), Rules:

Except with the prior consent of the Controlling Body, a litter of pups shall not be divided or relocated from the address of whelping until such time as they have been ear branded, microchipped and vaccinated in accordance with these Rules, and further until a period of 13 days has elapsed from the date of the last vaccination pursuant to Rule 137(1)(c)(i) and (ii).

Local Rule 125(2)(b), Rules:

(2) A person must not:

...

(b) leave an unnamed greyhound for the purposes of whelping or rearing in the care of a person who is not a registered breeder.

6. Mr Micallef pleaded guilty to the charges, provided written submissions and elected to have the matter dealt with in writing.
7. The Commission found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Micallef:

Charge 1 (Rule 136(3):	To issue Mr Micallef a fine of \$750;
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Charge 2 (Local Rule 125(2)(b):	To suspend Mr Micallef registrations for a period of 8 weeks, wholly suspended for a period of 12 months on the condition that he does not breach Local Rule 125(2)(b) or any like Rules in that time frame.
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8. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence and submissions, including:
 - The objective seriousness of Mr Micallef's conduct;
 - The length of time Mr Micallef has held a trainer registration in the greyhound racing industry, being since 2003, approximately 18 years;
 - The lack of any relevant disciplinary history by Mr Micallef;
 - Mr Micallef's plea of guilty to the charges at the earliest opportunity;
 - Submissions made in mitigation of penalty by Mr Micallef.

.....End.....