



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 9 December 2021

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

Name of relevant person: Mrs Jessica Britton

Date: 18 April 2021; March 2021

Rule no.: Rule 86(x); Rule 120

Charge(s): (1) Mrs Britton made a false statement to a GWIC Registration team in relation to a whelping notice lodged by her;
(2) Mrs Britton failed to advise the GWIC registration team of the cancellation of a breeding lease within 7 days of the cancellation.

Disciplinary action taken:

Charge 1: 3-month disqualification;
Charge 2: Formal warning.

DECISION:

1. Mrs Britton was registered as an Owner and Breeder at all material times.
2. On 21 January 2021 the owner of the greyhound 'Off to Monaco' ("**Greyhound**") entered into a breeding leasing agreement with Mrs Britton to be listed as the registered Breeder in relation to the Greyhound.
3. The Breeding Lease Authority Form specified the registered premises ("**original premises**") at which the Greyhound would reside. This address was further confirmed on the Breeding Female Registration Application form.
4. Sometime prior to 4 April 2021 the Greyhound was relocated to the premises of an alternative registered Breeder and left in her care.
5. Mrs Britton did not advise the Commission that the Greyhound had been relocated from her premises nor that the breeding lease with the owner of the Greyhound had been cancelled.
6. On 4 April 2021 the Greyhound whelped a litter of 8 pups whilst under the care of the alternative Breeder. The Greyhound and resulting litter ("**Greyhounds**") remained under the care of that alternative Breeder.

7. On 18 April 2021 Mrs Britton lodged a Whelping Notice with the Commission in relation to the Greyhound and resulting litter. The Whelping Notice stated that the Greyhounds were located at the original premises under the care of Mrs Britton.
8. On 19 May 2021 a GWIC Inspector conducted an interview with Mrs Britton during which she stated that the litter had not been whelped at her property nor under her supervision and that the Greyhound had been removed from her custody some time in March 2021.
9. On review of the evidence in this matter, the Commission charged Mrs Britton a charge for breach of Rule 86(x) and Rule 120 of the Rules. These respectively read:

Rule 86, Rules

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

...

(x) makes any statement which to his/her knowledge is false either oral by, by print, in writing, by electronic means or by any combination thereof to a member of the Controlling Body, an officer of the Controlling Body, any employee of the Controlling Body, a veterinary surgeon or an official in the execution of his/her duty

Rule 120, Rules

Within 7 days of the cancellation or expiry of a lease, or if the greyhound is entered for an Event forthwith, the lessee shall lodge with the Controlling Body written notification of the cancellation or expiry together with the certificate of registration for the greyhound.

10. Mrs Britton pleaded guilty, provided written submissions in response to the charges and elected to have the matter dealt with on the papers.
11. The Commission found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mrs Britton:

Charge 1:	To disqualify her for a period of 3 months;
Charge 2:	To issue her a formal warning.
12. The Commission considered the conduct of misleading inspectors as to the location of a litter of pups very serious. It is important that the regulator knows the location of every greyhound to ensure the welfare of those greyhounds can be protected. Whilst in this case the greyhounds were relocated to another registered premises, that does not take away from the fact the Commission did not have any knowledge of the new location of the greyhounds.
13. Important integrity matters are also relevant. If participants transfer greyhounds to other participants without advising the regulator, it has the ability to affect compliance activities. It is also important to note that the Commission is tasked with the responsibility of ensuring it knows the location of every greyhound at all times. When participants don't comply with the rules surrounding notification of greyhounds that makes the Commission's role more challenging – when participants then lie about the

location of greyhounds during an investigation, this makes the Commissions integrity and compliance programs even more difficult.

14. Therefore, in summary, in taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence and submissions, including:

- The objective seriousness of Mrs Britton' conduct, in particular making a false statement to a GWIC Inspector;
- The length of time Mrs Britton has held a registration in the NSW greyhound racing industry, being from 2013, approximately 8 years;
- The lack of any relevant prior history by Mrs Britton;
- Mrs Britton' plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity;
- The submissions made in mitigation of penalty on behalf of Mrs Britton, including in relation to the circumstances of the offending, her personal circumstances and her remorse.

.....End.....