

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	30 November 2022
Decision-makers:	Director of Race Day Operations and Integrity, Wade Birch and Chief Executive Officer, Steve Griffin
Name of relevant person:	Mr. Sam Masri
Date:	7 October 2022
Rule no:	Rule 159(1)(b); Rule 164(a)
Charge(s):	(1) Mr Masri had in his possession live animals reasonably likely to be or capable of being, used as a bait, quarry or lure; (2) Mr Masri made a false statement to GWIC Inspectors.
Disciplinary action taken:	Charge 1: Life disqualification; Charge 2: 2 years disqualification.

With the penalties to be served concurrently:

DECISION:

1. Mr Masri, at all relevant times, was a registered Owner/Trainer.
2. On 7 October 2022, Inspectors attended at Mr Masri's registered address to conduct an unannounced inspection of his registered kennels.
3. During the inspection, Inspectors discovered live rabbits and possums in a horse float located at the property. The rabbits and possums were surrendered to the Inspectors.
4. The Commission charged Mr Masri with offences under Rule 159(1)(b) and Rule 164(a) which respectively read:

Rule 159(1) A person who, in the opinion of a Controlling Body:

(b) attempts to possess, has possession of, or brings onto any premises, grounds or within the boundaries of any property where greyhounds are, or activities associated with greyhound racing occur or are intended to occur any live animal for the purpose of being, or which is reasonable likely to be capable of being, used as bait, quarry or lure must be disqualified for life and, if applicable fined the sum of money not exceeding the amount specified in a relevant Act or the Rules.

Rule 164(a) An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

(a) Makes a false or misleading statement in relation to or during an investigation, inspection, examination, test or inquiry (or at any other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) or makes or causes to be made a falsification in a document in connection with greyhound racing or the registration of a greyhound

5. With the particulars for the Charges being summarised as follows;

Charge 1, Rule 159(1)(b)

- Commission Inspectors discovered a number of live rabbits and possums in cages in Mr Masri's horse float located on his registered kennels, and that these animals were reasonably likely to be used for the purposes of live baiting.

Charge 2, Rule 164(a)

- When questioned by Commission Inspectors as to his knowledge of the animals, Mr Masri made a false statement saying he has no knowledge as to the animals in his trailer, in circumstances where it was clear to Inspectors he did.

6. Mr Masri was provided an opportunity to respond to the Charges but declined to attend the hearing and did not enter a plea to the Charges. Limited written submissions were received on behalf of Mr Masri.

7. The Commission considered all the available material and found the Charges proven;

8. The Commission took the following disciplinary action against Mr Masri:

Charge 1 (R159(1)(b)): To disqualify Mr Masri for Life;

Charge 2 (R164(a)): To disqualify Mr Masri for a period of 2 years,

With the periods of disqualification to be served concurrently;

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:

- The relatively short period of time Mr. Masri has held a registration since re-entering the industry;
- Mr Masri's failure to co-operate with the proceedings or enter a plea;
- The Commission maintains that matters involving any indication or intention of the use of live baiting are of the highest degree of objective seriousness and offending behaviour. The provisions of Rule 159 require a minimum penalty of a life disqualification.

.....End.....