

**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

Date of decision:	8 August 2023
Decision-makers:	Chief Steward, Troy Vassallo and Inspector, Lisa Londregan
Name of relevant person:	Mr Michael Lee
Track:	N/A
Date:	Various dates across November and December 2022 and January 2023.
Rule no.:	R21(3), R21(1)(c), R151(1) & (2)
Charges:	<p>Charge 1 (Rule 21(3)) Mr Michael Lee, as a registered Owner Trainer, permitted the condition of his registered premises to be in a condition that was likely to be dangerous to the health, welfare or safety of any greyhound in his custody.</p> <p>Charge 2 (Rule 21(1)(c)) Mr Michael Lee, as a registered Owner Trainer, between the dates of 10 November 2022 and 24 January 2023 failed to keep the kennels at his registered premises in a clean and sanitary condition.</p> <p>Charge 3 (Rule 151 (1) and (2)) Mr Michael Lee, as a registered Owner Trainer, failed to keep and produce treatment records relating to greyhounds in his care.</p>
Disciplinary action taken:	<p>Charge 1: 4-month, 2-week disqualification;</p> <p>Charge 2: 3-month suspension;</p> <p>Charge 3: Fine of \$375.00</p>

With the penalties imposed for charges 1 and 2 to be served concurrently.

With the net penalty to be served by Mr Lee to be a disqualification of 4 months and 2 weeks.

The commencement date of these penalties is backdated to 13 December 2022, being the date that Mr Lee was suspended on an interim basis. Mr Lee is therefore eligible to re-apply for registration, as the disqualification expired on 27 April 2023.

INVESTIGATION:

Charge One

1. GWIC Inspectors conducted inspections at Mr Lee's property on 10 November 2022, 28 November 2022, 30 November 2022, 14 December 2022 and 25 January 2023.
2. During each of these inspections, Inspectors found that the kennels and yards at the property had damaged wire fencing, rusted walls and gates that were damaged and worn. The status of the kennels and yards were such that they were a hazard to greyhounds kept in them.

Charge Two

3. During the inspections conducted by GWIC Inspectors on 10 November 2022, 28 November 2022, 30 November 2022, 14 December 2022 and 25 January 2023, the kennels at the premises were found to be in an unclean and unsanitary condition.

Charge Three

4. During the inspections on 10 November 2022, 28 November 2022, 30 November 2022, 14 December 2022 and 25 January 2023, Mr Lee was asked to produce the treatment records relating to the greyhounds in his care. Mr Lee was unable to provide the treatment records to the Inspectors as requested.

DECISION:

5. At all relevant times Mr Lee was registered with the Commission as an Owner Trainer.
6. On 13 December 2022, following an initial investigation, the Commission suspended Mr Lee's registration on an interim basis
7. On 13 July 2023 the Commission issued Mr Lee with a Notice of Charge and Proposed Disciplinary Action ("**Notice**"). The Notice issued three charges and alleged that Mr Lee had breached Rules 21(3), 21(1)(c), and 151(1) & (2). The Notice invited Mr Lee to attend a hearing on 2 August 2023 to respond to the charges.
8. Mr Lee attended the hearing on 2 August 2023 via Teams and entered a plea of guilty to all charges. Mr Lee made verbal submissions in respect of the charges and the penalties that the decision makers proposed.
9. Following consideration of all of the evidence, including Mr Lee's submissions and pleas, the decision makers found the charges proven and resolved to impose the following penalties:

Charge 1 (Rule 21(3)): 4-month and 2-week disqualification;

Charge 2 (Rule 21(1)(c)): 3-month suspension; and,

Charge 3 (Rule 151) (1) & (2)): \$375.00 fine.

10. The decision makers determined that the penalties for Charges 1 and 2 ought to be served concurrently, resulting in a total period of disqualification of 4 months and 2 weeks.

11. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all relevant factors, including:

- Mr Lee's long history in the industry, being a registered participant for over 25 years without any previous breaches of a similar nature;
- Mr Lee's verbal submissions, with specific regard to his personal circumstances;
- The need to protect the interests of the greyhound racing industry; and
- The principles of both general and specific deterrence, and the need to deter participants from conduct that is detrimental to the health and welfare of their greyhounds.

.....End.....