



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

**Date of decision:** Thursday 15 February 2024

**Decision-makers:** Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Steward Paul Van Gestal

**Name of relevant person:** Robert Howard

**Rule no.:** R145(1), R148(1)(a), R149(1)

**Charge(s):** Charge 1 – 145(1)  
Mr. Howard did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by administering a substance to a greyhound prior to an event

Charge 2 – 148(1)(a)  
Mr Howard did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by possessing a substance not registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) without the prior consent of the Stewards or Controlling Body

Charge 3 – 149(1)  
Mr Howard did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by possession of an item that could be used to administer a prohibited substance on a racecourse without the prior consent of the Stewards or Controlling Body

**Plea:** Charge 1 – Not Guilty  
Charge 2 – Not Guilty  
Charge 3 – Not Guilty

**Disciplinary action taken:** **Charge 1 - \$700 Fine**  
**Charge 2 - \$300 Fine**  
**Charge 3 - \$300 Fine**

## **DECISION:**

1. Mr Howard was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer, Breeder and Stud Master with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On Thursday 1 February 2024 Mr Howard was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**"). The Notice issued three charges against him for breaches of the following Greyhound Racing Rules:

### **Charge One - Rule 145(1)**

- (1) An offence is committed if, without the permission of the Stewards, a person administers, causes to be administered, or attempts to administer any treatment to a greyhound at any time on the day of a meeting until that greyhound is no longer presented for an Event.

### **Charge Two Rule 148(1)(a)**

- (1) A person must not, without the express permission of the Stewards or the Controlling Body, possess any prohibited substance, exempted substance, or other substance {including any other medication, medicine, injectable substance, supplement, herbal product or therapeutic good} that:

(a) is not registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

### **Charge Three - Rule 149(1)**

- (1) An offence under these Rules is committed if, without the permission of the Controlling Body or Stewards, and except in the case of an officiating veterinarian carrying standard equipment, a person has a prohibited substance or a syringe, needle or other instrument which could be used to administer a prohibited substance to a greyhound in their possession, either on a racecourse or in any motor vehicle or trailer being used for the purpose of travelling to or from a racecourse.

3. A summary of the three charges issued against Mr Howard is as follows:

#### **Charge 1 – R145(1)**

- i. On Friday October 13, 2023, Mr. Howard presented the greyhound "Time To Go" (**Greyhound**) for the purpose of competing in Race 4 of the Wentworth Park meeting of that date
- ii. Prior to arrival at the meeting Mr. Howard administered a substance, via a syringe, to the Greyhound

**Charge 2 – Rule148(1)(a)**

- i. On Friday October 13, 2023, at the Wentworth Park Greyhound Club, Mr. Howard was found to be in possession of substances that were not registered by the APVMA
- ii. Mr. Howard did not have the express permission of the Stewards or the Controlling Body to possess these substances

**Charge 3 – 149(1)**

- i. On Friday October 13, 2023, at the Wentworth Park Greyhound Club, Mr. Howard was found to be in possession of two syringes which could be used to administer a prohibited substance to a greyhound
  - ii. The syringes were located in a motor vehicles used for the purpose of travelling to and from the Wentworth Park Greyhound Club
  - iii. Mr. Howard did not have the express permission of the Stewards or the Controlling Body, to possess the two syringes
4. The Notice invited Mr Howard to attend a hearing on Thursday 15 January 2024 and to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charges and proposed penalties;

Charge 1 (Rule 145(1)) - To issue a fine of \$1000.

Charge 2 (Rule 148(1)(a)) - To issue a fine of \$500.

Charge 3 (Rule 149(1)) - To issue a fine of \$500.

5. At the hearing conducted via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 15 February Mr Howard,
- Entered a plea of not guilty to all three charges; and
  - Made verbal submissions
6. Following consideration of Mr Howards' plea and verbal submissions, the decision-makers found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against him:

**Charge 1 - \$700 Fine**

**Charge 2 - \$300 Fine**

**Charge 3 - \$300 Fine**

7. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all evidence, including:
- Mr. Howard's Not Guilty pleas

- Mr. Howard's extensive registration history and no prior offences for each charge
- The nature of the substance administered
- A Sample obtained from the Greyhound did not detect any prohibited substances

.....End.....