



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Tuesday 19 March 2024
Decision-makers:	Senior Steward Dean Degan and Steward Craig Easey
Name of relevant person:	Robert Hatton
Rule no.:	R29(1)
Charge(s):	Charge – R29(1) Mr. Hatton did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to maintain effective control of a greyhound whilst in a public place.
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	Fine of \$500, with \$250 conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Hatton not breaching this, or any like rule, in the 12-month period; Suspension of six weeks, wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Hatton not breaching this, or any like rule, in the 12-month period.

DECISION:

1. Mr Hatton was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner Trainer and Breeder with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On Tuesday 5 March 2024 Mr Hatton was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”) following the Commission becoming aware that Mr. Hatton had lost effective control over two greyhounds in his care. The Notice issued a charge against him for breach of the following Greyhound Racing Rule:

Rule 29(1) Control of a greyhound in a public place

A registered person must ensure that a greyhound in the person's care, custody, or control is not in or on a public place unless the greyhound:

- (a) has an appropriate, properly fitted and securely fixed muzzle; and
- (b) is under the effective control of a competent person by use of a lead which is in a condition able to effectively restrain a greyhound, and which is securely fastened to the collar worn by the greyhound.

3. The Notice invited Mr Hatton to attend a hearing on Tuesday 19 March 2024 and to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge and proposed penalty;

Charge (Rule 29(1)) - To issue a suspension of two months

4. At the hearing conducted via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 19 March 2024, Mr Hatton,
 - Entered a plea of guilty to the Charge; and
 - Made verbal submissions.
5. Following consideration of Mr Hatton’s plea and verbal submissions, the decision-makers found the charges proven and determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

Fine of \$500, with \$250 of the fine and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months, subject to Mr. Hatton not breaching this, or any like rule in that 12-month period; and

Suspension of six weeks, wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Hatton not breaching this or any like rule in that 12-month period.

7. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Hatton’s guilty plea;
 - Mr Hatton’s verbal submissions made at the hearing;
 - Mr. Hatton’s registration history and good record; and
 - Mr Hatton’s personal and professional circumstances.

.....End.....