DECISION

The Rules of Racing of Racing Queensland – Greyhounds
Part 6 Breeding and Identity, Division 2: Artificial Insemination

Inquiry Number:	G-27-016
Participant:	Paul Dicks
Stewards:	Brooke McErlean (Chairperson) Michael Fernholz (Panel) James Philp (Panel)
Code:	Greyhounds
Rule:	Greyhounds Australasia Rule 71(4) *Except with prior consent of a Controlling Body, a litter of greyhounds must not be divided or relocated from the address of whelping until they have been microchipped, tattooed and vaccinated in accordance with the rules, and also until a period of 14 days elapsed from the date of the last minimum vaccination requirement pursuant to subrule 25(3)(b).*
Penalty Notice:	PN-013717
Hearing Date:	27 October 2026
Decision Date:	27 October 2026
Charge:	Mr Paul Dicks, on or about 25 December 2025, as a licensed breeder with QRIC, did relocate a litter of three (3) pups he had whelped, from the address of whelping into the care of another licensed breeder, prior to those pups receiving their required vaccination provided for under GAR 25(3)(b), which is contrary to GAR 71(4).
Plea:	Guilty
Penalty:	Reprimand

Background

1. This Stewards' inquiry was convened following information provided to the Stewards regarding the circumstances of a litter of pups, which were bred and in the control of licensed breeder Mr Paul Dicks.

2. The report indicated that a litter of three (3) pups may have been relocated by Mr Dicks from the place of whelping prior to receiving their required vaccinations.

3. At the inquiry the Stewards took verbal evidence from Mr Dicks and considered documentary evidence supplied from QRIC's Licensing and Registration department.

Charge

4. After considering all available evidence, the Stewards issued a charge against Mr Dicks pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 71(4), which states:

Except with prior consent of a Controlling Body, a litter of greyhounds must not be divided or relocated from the address of whelping until they have been microchipped, tattooed and vaccinated in accordance with the rules, and also until a period of 14 days elapsed from the date of the last minimum vaccination requirement pursuant to subrule 25(3)(b).

5. The specifics of the charge were:

That on or about 25 December 2025, Mr Paul Dicks as a licensed breeder with QRIC, did relocate a litter of three (3) pups he had whelped, from the address of whelping into the care of another licensed breeder, prior to those pups receiving their required vaccination provided for under GAR 25(3)(b), which is contrary to GAR 71(4).

6. Mr Dicks pleaded guilty to the charge.

Penalty Submissions

7. Mr Dicks' penalty submissions in summary were that he:

    a. Did relocate the litter of pups due to a personal emergency.

    b. He had attempted to contact the QRIC for advice, however as it was during the Christmas closure period he was unsuccessful.

    c. He acknowledges he had erred in his decision making, however did not do so with any malicious intent.

Penalty Considerations & Findings

8. In determining penalty, the Stewards considered the objective seriousness of the breach, Mr Dicks' level of culpability, his penalty submissions and personal circumstances, relevant mitigating and aggravating factors, his disciplinary history, the QRIC Greyhound Penalty Guidelines, and the principles of proportionality and general and specific deterrence.

9. In assessing culpability, the Stewards considered that GAR 71(4) imposes an important obligation upon licensed breeders by restricting the relocation of a litter until the requirements prescribed by the Rules have been satisfied, unless prior consent has been obtained. As the breeder responsible for the litter, Mr Dicks was required to ensure compliance with those requirements. At the time of relocation, the three pups had received their first C3 vaccination but had not yet received the further vaccination required under GAR 25(3)(b).

10. In mitigation, the Stewards accepted that the litter was relocated due to a personal emergency and was placed into the care of another licensed breeder. Mr Dicks submitted that he had attempted to contact QRIC for advice but was unable to do so during the Christmas closure period. The pups subsequently received the required C5 vaccination while in the care of the other breeder.

11. The Stewards also took into account Mr Dicks' guilty plea, cooperation, apology and remorse, his acknowledgement that he had erred in his decision-making, his lengthy involvement in the greyhound racing industry and the absence of any prior offending of a similar nature.

12. In considering aggravating factors, the Stewards noted that Mr Dicks was an experienced licensed breeder and remained responsible for complying with the Rules notwithstanding the circumstances confronting him. The Stewards did not identify any other material aggravating factors. The Stewards also had regard to the QRIC Greyhound Penalty Guidelines, which do not provide a specified penalty amount or type for this specific breach, however does provide a framework for determining a penalty generally.

13. Having balanced the importance of maintaining compliance with the requirements of GAR 71(4) against the particular circumstances of the breach and the significant mitigating factors, the Stewards considered that the offending fell towards the lower end of seriousness. While a formal regulatory response was warranted to reinforce the obligations applying to licensed breeders and provide appropriate general deterrence, the Stewards considered there was a reduced need for specific deterrence in light of Mr Dicks' plea, cooperation, remorse and disciplinary history.

Penalty Decision

14. Having regard to all relevant circumstances, the Stewards determined that a reprimand was the appropriate and proportionate penalty for Mr Dicks' breach of GAR 71(4). The Stewards considered that a reprimand appropriately records the breach and reinforces the importance of compliance with the Rules while recognising the circumstances in which the offending occurred and Mr Dicks' substantial mitigating factors.

Right of Review

15. Mr Dicks was advised that pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Racing Integrity Act 2016 (Qld), provides the right for a review of a racing decision of a steward, noting any application for review must be made within three (3) business days of this decision.