

# Stewards' Report

**Inquiry Date:** Monday, 1 February 2021

**Stewards:** A. Kitching (Chair), A. Spence, G. Meek

**Person:** Noel Patterson

**Rule:** GAR 106(1)(d) (x4)

**Charges:**

- (1) Mr Noel Patterson, between the dates of 13 April 2020 and 14 April 2020, did fail to provide appropriate veterinary attention when necessary for the greyhound Spring Lance, which resulted in the greyhound's death.
- (2) Mr Noel Patterson, between the dates of 14 April 2020 and 20 April 2020, did fail to provide appropriate veterinary attention when necessary for the greyhound Nimble Nanook, which resulted in the greyhound's death.
- (3) Mr Noel Patterson, leading up to and on 22 April 2020, did fail to provide appropriate veterinary attention when necessary for the greyhound Dyna Raze, which resulted in the greyhound's death.
- (4) Mr Noel Patterson, leading up to and on 12 May 2020, did fail to provide appropriate veterinary attention when necessary for the greyhound Rose Girl, which resulted in the greyhound being subsequently euthanised.

**Penalty:** 3-year Disqualification

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On Monday, 1 February 2021 the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into the deaths of three greyhounds and the euthanasia of one greyhound under the care of trainer Noel Patterson. QRIC Stewards were provided a Veterinary Report in January and it was established by the panel that from 13 April 2020 and until 12 May 2020 Mr Patterson had in his care four greyhounds which had contracted Canine Coronavirus, a treatable virus which was present in the Queensland greyhound racing population at the time. Three greyhounds, being Spring Lance, Nimble Nanook, and Dyna Raze, were pronounced deceased on arrival to a nearby vet clinic, and Rose Girl was humanely euthanised.

After considering all available evidence, including a Veterinary Report from Dr Bruce Young, Principal Vet – Integrity Investigations Team, detailing the failings of Mr Patterson to seek treatment when necessary, and Mr Patterson's own submissions, Stewards charged Mr Patterson with four breaches of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 106(1)(d) which reads:

*R106(1) A registered person must ensure that greyhounds, which are in the person's care or custody, are provided at all times with; (d) veterinary attention when necessary.*

**Charge 1:** *Mr Noel Patterson, between the dates of 13 April 2020 and 14 April 2020, did fail to provide appropriate veterinary attention when necessary for the greyhound Spring Lance, which resulted in the greyhound's death.*

**Charge 2:** *Mr Noel Patterson, between the dates of 14 April 2020 and 20 April 2020, did fail to provide appropriate veterinary attention when necessary for the greyhound Nimble Nanook, which resulted in the greyhound's death.*

**Charge 3:** *Mr Noel Patterson, leading up to and on 22 April 2020, did fail to provide appropriate veterinary attention when necessary for the greyhound Dyna Raze, which resulted in the greyhound's death.*

**Charge 4:** *Mr Noel Patterson, leading up to and on 12 May 2020, did fail to provide appropriate veterinary attention when necessary for the greyhound Rose Girl, which resulted in the greyhound being subsequently euthanised.*

Mr Patterson reserved his plea to the charges and made no further submissions.

After considering all available evidence Stewards found the charges proven and formally found Mr Patterson guilty of all four charges.

Stewards considered the following in determining penalty:

- Mr Patterson's personal circumstances.
- Mr Patterson has been a trainer since September 2019.
- The Capricorn Veterinary Clinic is in close proximity to Mr Patterson's registered address, approximately 300m.
- Dr Bruce Young's Veterinary Report and expert opinion.
- Dr Bruce Young's assessment that had the greyhounds received appropriate veterinary attention the four deaths could have been avoided.
- The seriousness of the breaches.
- Both general and specific deterrence.
- Relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the QRIC Stewards issued the following penalty:

*A 3-year Disqualification of Mr Patterson's licence, effective immediately.*

Mr Patterson was advised of his right to an Internal Review.