

Stewards' Report

Date: Friday, 28 October 2022
Panel: Ms A Turner (Chairperson), Mr M Fernholz
Person: Mr Tom Tzouvelis
Rule: GAR 136(3)
Charge: The relocation of a litter of greyhound pups prior to being vaccinated in accordance with the Greyhounds Australasia Rules
Penalty: \$750.00 fine

Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission today concluded an inquiry in respect of evidence obtained by the Integrity Investigations Stewards from a kennel inspection undertaken at the registered kennel address of licensed trainer Mr Tzouvelis on 8 March 2022, at which it was found that a litter of greyhound pups had been relocated prior to being vaccinated in accordance with the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge to Mr Tzouvelis pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 136(3) effective as at 1 July 2016, which relevantly provides:

Except with the prior consent of the Controlling Body, a litter of pups shall not be divided or relocated from the address of whelping until such time as they have been ear branded, microchipped and vaccinated in accordance with these Rules, and further until a period of 14 days has elapsed from the date of the last vaccination pursuant to Rule 137(1)(c)(i) and (ii).

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

That Mr Tom Tzouvelis, as the registered owner of the litter of greyhound pups by Bar Girls x Maurice Minor whelped on 22 October 2021, permitted the relocation of the litter on 2 February 2022 prior to the pups being vaccinated in accordance with the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and without the prior consent of the Controlling Body.

Mr Tzouvelis entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made brief submissions to the Stewards regarding penalty.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Tzouvelis' plea of guilty at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Tzouvelis' time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately thirty (30) years;
- Mr Tzouvelis' forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;

- Mr Tzouvelis' disciplinary history, noting no prior offences of a similar nature;
- Mr Tzouvelis' personal circumstances at the time of offending;
- the nature of Mr Tzouvelis' offending, being the relocation of a litter of pups from their address of whelping prior to their final required vaccination;
- that holding a licence within the greyhound racing industry is a privilege, not a right, and it is the participant's responsibility to comply with his/her obligations under the Greyhounds Australasia Rules;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Tzouvelis and general deterrence to the wider industry; and
- relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed a penalty of a fine in the amount of \$750.00

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