

Stewards' Report

Date:	Thursday, 20 July 2023
Panel:	Mr R Jackson (Chairperson), Mr N Thorneycroft, Ms A McLennan
Person:	Mr Jason Haim
Rule:	GAR21(1)(a), GAR21(1)(c), GAR21(1)(c), GAR2(1)(c), GAR156(h), GAR21(3)
Penalty:	Charge 1 – Six (6) month disqualification Charge 2 – Six (6) month disqualification served concurrently with Charge 1 Charge 3 – Six (6) month disqualification served concurrently with Charge 1 Charge 4 – Nine (9) month disqualification which is to be served cumulatively on the disqualification imposed in Charge 1. Charge 5 – Three (3) month suspension served concurrently with Charge 4 Charge 6 - Nine (9) month disqualification served concurrently with Charge 4

Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission today concluded an inquiry in respect to evidence obtained from multiple kennel inspections undertaken by the Stewards at the registered kennel address of licensed trainer and owner, Mr Jason Haim, on 1 July 2023 and 10 July 2023.

At the initial kennel inspection on 1 July 2023, Stewards observed four (4) greyhounds to be housed in an unregistered and dilapidated trailer, seven (7) puppies to be without any water, three (3) greyhounds to have access to water that was unhygienic and not suitable for drinking, multiple greyhounds with inadequate bedding and/or protective apparel at a time where overnight temperatures of 4.5 degrees were recorded, and unreasonable accumulation of faeces and urine in and around the greyhound enclosures. A Stewards direction was issued to Mr Haim in relation to these non-compliance issues.

A further kennel inspection was conducted by Stewards on 10 July 2023, in which the Stewards observed an unreasonable accumulation of faeces and urine in both the race kennels and outdoor yard that was used to house seven (7) puppies. Stewards opened an inquiry into the matter and ordered that the greyhounds owned and/or trained by Mr Haim were not permitted to be nominated for, or compete in any event, until the completion of the inquiry.

After considering all of the available evidence, including a Veterinary report from Dr Andrew Lobb and submissions made by Mr Haim, Stewards issued six (6) charges pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules, as follows;

Charge 1: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 21(1)(a)

(1) A person must ensure that any greyhound in the person's care or custody, is at all times provided with:

(a) proper and sufficient food, drink and protective apparel;

Particulars of the charge being:

1. Mr Haim was at all relevant times, a trainer bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
2. On 1 July 2023, Stipendiary Stewards conducted an inspection of Mr Haim's registered premises.
3. At all relevant times, Mr Haim had in his care and custody up to twenty-six (26) greyhounds.
4. During the inspection it was found that some of the greyhounds kept at the registered premises;
 - (a) did not have access to any water, namely seven (7) puppies in an outdoor enclosure.
 - (b) only had access to water that was discoloured with algae present in the water containers, namely three (3) greyhounds in outdoor runs.

Charge 2: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 21(1)(c)

(1) A person must ensure that any greyhound in the person's care or custody, is at all times provided with:

(c) kennels constructed and of a standard approved by a Controlling Body which are adequate in size and which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition;

Particulars of the charge being:

1. Mr Haim was at all relevant times, a trainer bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
2. On 1 July 2023, Stipendiary Stewards conducted an inspection of Mr Haim's registered premises.
3. At all relevant times, Mr Haim had the greyhounds: **Unnamed Black Bitch (956000012806090), Unnamed Black Bitch (956000011718362), King Wylde (956000007834947), Federal Dragon (956000006172831)**, in his care and custody.
4. Mr Haim failed to provide these greyhounds in his care and custody with kennels constructed and of a standard approved by the controlling body which were adequate in size and kept in a clean and sanitary condition, in that the kennels were not compliant with the permanent kennelling and housing of greyhounds minimum standard requirements, in particular;
 - (a) All four (4) greyhounds mentioned above were housed in an unregistered trailer with individual bays measuring approximately 108cm (L) x 75cm (W) x 70cm (H).

Charge 3: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 21(1)(c)

(1) A person must ensure that any greyhound in the person's care or custody, is at all times provided with:

(c) kennels constructed and of a standard approved by a Controlling Body which are adequate in size and which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition;

Particulars of the charge being:

1. Mr Haim was at all relevant times, a trainer bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
2. On 1 July 2023, Stipendiary Stewards conducted an inspection of Mr Haim's registered premises.
3. At all relevant times, Mr Haim had in his care and custody up to twenty-six (26) greyhounds.
4. During the inspection it was found that the greyhound enclosures were not being kept in a clean and sanitary condition in that:
 - (a) There was an accumulation of faeces and urine in the race day kennels.
 - (b) There was an accumulation of faeces in the outdoor yard containing seven (7) puppies.

Charge 4: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 21(1)(c)

(1) A person must ensure that any greyhound in the person's care or custody, is at all times provided with:

(c) kennels constructed and of a standard approved by a Controlling Body which are adequate in size and which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition;

Particulars of the charge being:

1. Mr Haim was at all relevant times, a trainer bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
2. On 10 July 2023, Stipendiary Stewards conducted an inspection of Mr Haim's registered premises, pursuant to a re-check, following the issue of a direction on 1 July 2023.
3. At all relevant times, Mr Haim had in his care and custody up to twenty-six (26) greyhounds.
4. During the inspection it was found that the greyhound enclosures were not being kept in a clean and sanitary condition in that:
 - (a) There was an accumulation of faeces and urine in the race day kennels.
 - (b) There was an accumulation of faeces in the outdoor yard containing seven (7) puppies.

Charge 5: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 156(h)

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

(h) disobeys or fails to comply with a lawful order of a Controlling Body, the Stewards, or another person authorised by a Controlling Body with official duties in relation to greyhound racing;

Particulars of the charge being:

1. Mr Haim was at all relevant times, a trainer bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
2. On 1 July 2023, Mr Haim was issued with a lawful order by a Steward which directed him to;
 - Improve living conditions for seven (7) puppies contained in an enclosure observed by stewards to be living amongst a significant build up of faeces. Time to comply: Immediate and Ongoing.
 - Improve the living conditions of all race day kennels on the property by hosing away build up of urine, removing build up of faeces and changing soft bedding. Time to comply: within 12 hours.
3. Mr Haim failed to comply with the conditions and timeframes of this lawful order as evidenced at the inspection on 10 July 2023.

Charge 6: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 21(3)

(3) A person shall not cause or permit, on any premises owned or occupied by that person, any condition that is likely to be dangerous to the health, welfare or safety of that greyhound.

Particulars of the charge being:

1. Mr Haim was at all relevant times, a trainer bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
2. On 1 July 2023 and 10 July 2023, Stipendiary Stewards conducted an inspection of Mr Haim's registered premises.

3. At all relevant times, Mr Haim had in his care and custody up to twenty-six (26) greyhounds.
4. Mr Haim kept greyhounds in conditions that were dangerous and detrimental to their health and safety in that those greyhounds were;
 - (a) Subject to poor husbandry practices.
 - (b) Given insufficient clean water and that water was discoloured, with algae present in the water containers and unsuitable for drinking.
 - (c) Subjected to unclean and unsanitary conditions, in that there was an unreasonable accumulation of faecal matter and urine, both in and around the greyhound enclosures.
 - (d) Subjected to the elements without sufficient access to warm bedding and/or protective apparel.

Mr Haim entered a plea of not guilty to all charges and made brief submissions in support of his not guilty pleas.

Stewards considered Mr Haim's submissions and formally found Mr Haim guilty of all Charges 1 – 6.

Mr Haim made submissions to the panel in relation to penalty in writing.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following;

- Mr Haim's not guilty plea to all charges; and
- Mr Haim's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately three (3) years; and
- Mr Haim's personal circumstances, noting that Mr Haim does not rely solely on income earned from the greyhound industry; and
- Mr Haim's historical unsatisfactory kennel inspections dating back to November 2021, February 2022, March 2022 and July 2023, in which similar breaches were identified and lesser enforcement options were exhausted, including education and Stewards directions. This demonstrated to the panel that Mr Haim has shown a lack of willingness to comply with his obligations as a licenced trainer within the greyhound industry; and

- The need for both specific deterrents for Mr Haim and general deterrents to the wider industry; and
- That holding a licence within the greyhound racing industry is a privilege, not a right, and therefore compliance with the Greyhounds Australasia Rules is a core requirement of participating in the industry; and
- The need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing by imposing a penalty that sends a clear and unequivocal message to ensure that Mr Haim, and all other participants, understand that the welfare of the animals is of the highest priority; and
- Relevant penalty precedents.
- The *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Accordingly, the Stewards issued the following penalties:

Charge 1 – Six (6) month disqualification

Charge 2 – Six (6) month disqualification served concurrently with Charge 1

Charge 3 – Six (6) month disqualification served concurrently with Charge 1

Charge 4 – Nine (9) month disqualification which is to be served cumulatively on the disqualification imposed in Charge 1

Charge 5 – Three (3) month suspension served concurrently with Charge 4

Charge 6 - Nine (9) month disqualification served concurrently with Charge 4.

With the total period of disqualification being fifteen (15) months backdated to 10 July 2023, being the date Mr Haim's licence and registration was suspended by the Stewards.

Stewards permitted Mr Haim fourteen (14) days from midnight 20 July 2023 to transfer all greyhounds from his care and custody, with Stewards permission being required for each transfer.

Mr Haim was advised of his right to appeal.

