

Stewards' Report

Date: Thursday, 14 September 2023
Panel: Mr D Broxham (Chairperson), Mr D Aurisch, Ms B McErlean
Person: Ms Marie Westwood
Rule: GAR 156(f)(ii)
Charges: Negligence in her animal husbandry practices resulting in the euthanasia of greyhound.
Penalty: Six (6) week suspension wholly suspended for twelve (12) months

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry in respect of Ms Westwood's negligence in her animal husbandry practices which subsequently led to a number of her greyhounds being involved in a fight which resulted in multiple greyhounds being injured as well as one greyhound being humanely euthanised.

After considering all of the evidence, stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 156(f)(ii), which provides:

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

(f) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing, done something, or omitted to do something, which, in the opinion of a Controlling Body or the Stewards:

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper

The specifics of the charge are as follows:

Ms Westwood, as a licensed greyhound trainer, did place her greyhounds in a situation that subsequently lead to the greyhound FRANKS NEWS sustaining serious injuries and ultimately having to be humanely euthanised as well as several other greyhounds also receiving injuries.

Acting under GAR 46(6), which provides:

Registration of persons and greyhounds

(6) A Controlling Body may cancel a registration or suspend, vary or alter or add to the conditions of registration.

Ms Westwood must reduce the number of registered racing greyhounds in her traineeship to a maximum of six (6) greyhounds until completion of further husbandry education. Stewards have permitted Ms Westwood twenty-eight (28) days from midnight 14 September to transfer relevant greyhounds from her care and custody to comply with this requirement.

Further, Ms Westwood has been directed that all nine (9) of the greyhounds associated with the incident must complete two (2) satisfactory stewards' trials prior to being nominated for an event.

In determining penalty, stewards considered the following:

- Ms Westwood's plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity
- Ms Westwood's cooperation and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry
- Ms Westwood's submissions made in relation to penalty which included consideration of her personal circumstances.
- Ms Westwood's immediate review and amendment of animal husbandry practices
- Ms Westwood's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches.
- The seriousness in ensuring the welfare of greyhounds in the industry is upheld

Accordingly, the stewards deemed that the appropriate penalty be a suspension of Ms Westwood's license for a period of six (6) weeks with stewards electing to wholly suspend the six (6) weeks pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for a period of 12 months conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Ms Westwood was advised of her right to appeal.