

# Stewards' Report

**Date:** Tuesday, 27 August 2024

**Panel:** Ms A Turner (Chairperson), Mr C Ferguson

**Person:** Mr Steven Swift

**Rule:** GAR 21(1)(a), GAR 21(1)(e), GAR 156(f)(ii)

**Charges:**

1. Between 10 February 2024 and 15 March 2024, Mr Steven Swift failed to ensure that the greyhound Sirius Bill was at all times provided with proper and sufficient food
2. Between 2 April 2024 and 6 April 2024, Mr Steven Swift failed to ensure that the greyhound Sirius Bill was at all times provided with appropriate treatment following the extraction of four (4) teeth
3. Between 12 April 2024 and 7 May 2024, Mr Steven Swift omitted to conduct hookworm testing on the greyhound Aerobic Sound when requested to do so, which conduct, in the opinion of the Stewards, constituted negligence

**Penalty:**

Charge 1: Three (3) month suspension

Charge 2: Three (3) month suspension to be served concurrently with Charge 1

Charge 3: \$500.00 fine

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On 27 August 2024, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into various complaints received in respect of licensed trainer and owner Mr Steven Swift pertaining to the care and welfare of the greyhounds Sirius Bill and Aerobic Sound, together with allegations of misconduct at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 29 June 2024.

Submissions were made by Mr Steven Swift, together with his mother, his father and his carer in respect of the various complaints.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued three (3) charges pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules as follows:

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

*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;*

The specifics of Charge 1 were as follows:

Between 10 February 2024 and 15 March 2024, at his registered kennel address, Mr Steven Swift failed to ensure that the greyhound Sirius Bill was at all times provided with proper and sufficient food.

Charge 2: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 21(1)(e), which provides:

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

*(e) appropriate treatment for the greyhound if the person is in charge of a sick or injured greyhound*

The specifics of Charge 2 were as follows:

Between 2 April 2024 and 6 April 2024, at his registered kennel address, Mr Steven Swift failed to ensure that the greyhound Sirius Bill was at all times provided with appropriate treatment following the extraction of four (4) teeth.

Charge 3: Issued 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 Charge 3 were as follows:

Between 12 April 2024 and 7 May 2024, Mr Steven Swift omitted to conduct hookworm testing on the greyhound Aerobic Sound when requested to do so, which conduct, in the opinion of the Stewards, constituted negligence.

Stewards issued a warning to Mr Swift in respect of his conduct at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 29 June 2024 and discussed the potential implications of any similar conduct in the future.

Mr Swift entered a plea of guilty to all three (3) charges and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mr Swift's plea of guilty to all three (3) charges at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Swift's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately two (2) years;
- Mr Swift's cooperation throughout the inquiry and general compliance with stewards' directions;
- Mr Swift's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar nature;
- Mr Swift's personal circumstances, noting Mr Swift derives enjoyment from the industry and that his participation within the industry is beneficial to his wellbeing;
- Mr Swift's explanation in respect of Sirius Bill's weight loss, Mr Swift's failure to provide the appropriate treatment post-surgery to Sirius Bill and Mr Swift's negligence in omitting to conduct hookworm testing on Aerobic Sound;
- the nature of the offending conduct, being animal welfare offences and a negligence offence;
- the commitment expressed by Mr Swift in respect of further mentoring and compliance with the relevant rules, noting Mr Swift's undertaking that he will immediately seek professional advice should a similar situation occur in the future;

- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing by imposing a penalty that sends a clear and unequivocal message to ensure that yourself and all other participants, understand that the welfare of the animals is of the highest priority;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Swift and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents; and
- the Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was as follows:

Charge 1: A three (3) month suspension of Mr Swift's licence and owner registration.

Charge 2: A three (3) month suspension of Mr Swift's licence and owner registration to be served concurrently with Charge 1.

Charge 3: A \$500.00 fine.

Stewards further direct that Mr Swift's Trainer Class 2 Licence be downgraded to a Kennel Attendant Licence for a minimum period of two (2) years pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 46(6).

Mr Swift was advised of his right to a review of the decision.