

Stewards' Report – Robert Patching

Hearing Date: Tuesday, 7 October 2025

Stewards: James Philp (Chair)
Michael Fernholz
Ryan Jackson

Person: Robert Patching

Rule: Greyhounds Australasia Rule 22
Notification of retirement, euthanasia, or other death of a greyhound
(1) At any time after the result of service pursuant to rule 71, the owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time must notify the Controlling Body where the greyhound is domiciled in writing:
(b) within 10 days if that greyhound has been humanely euthanased by a veterinarian, and it is a mandatory requirement under the Rules to include a veterinary certificate of euthanasia when lodging the relevant documentation for any greyhound that has been euthanased by that veterinarian;

Charge: That Mr Robert Patching was at all relevant times a licenced trainer and failed to provide the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission with a notification of euthanasia for the greyhound Alberton Park within the required 10-day period.

Plea: Guilty

Background & Submissions:

On 7th October 2025, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry regarding the late notification of euthanasia for the greyhound Alberton Park, which was trained by Mr Robert Patching at the relevant time.

Submissions made by Mr Patching regarding the circumstances of the late notification were:

- The impact of the events leading to the euthanasia upon himself;
- That the failure to notify within the required time period was an error and that the breach of rules was not intentional;
- His own difficulty sourcing the veterinary documents;

- That the specific circumstances of the euthanasia itself were not in breach of the rules and therefore did not unduly impede or obscure investigation into the matter.

Charge

After considering all available evidence and submissions, the Stewards issued a charge against Mr Patching pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 22 (1) (b), which provides:

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....

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Specifics of the charge were:

That Mr Robert Patching was at all relevant times a licenced trainer and failed to provide the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission with a notification of euthanasia for the greyhound Alberton Park within the required 10-day period.

Mr Patching pleaded guilty to the charge.

Penalty Submissions:

Mr Patching addressed the Stewards regarding penalty and submitted the following:

- His plea of guilty was at the earliest opportunity;
- He has exemplary penalty record, having no similar or serious charges over a 40 year period;
- His own personal circumstances and ongoing obligations to racing relative to the nature of the charge.

Stewards Finding on Penalty:

In determining an appropriate penalty for Mr Patching, several key mitigating factors were considered. Notably, Mr Patching entered a plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity, demonstrating accountability from the outset. His extensive experience in the greyhound racing industry, spanning over forty years, underscores his long-standing commitment to the greyhound racing code. Furthermore, Mr Patching provided forthright evidence and full cooperation throughout the inquiry, and his disciplinary history indicates no prior breaches of a similar nature.

Balancing these factors, the penalty decision also accounted for broader considerations, including the need for specific deterrence to Mr Patching and general deterrence across the wider industry to uphold integrity and welfare standards. This was informed by relevant penalty precedents, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines, and the protections afforded under the Human Rights Act 2019.

Penalty Decision:

Having regard to the penalties available to be imposed by the Stewards, it is considered that a reprimand is the most appropriate disciplinary action in the circumstances, as it sufficiently enforces compliance. A higher penalty, such as a monetary fine, would be excessive and disproportionate, given the strong mitigating factors present.

Therefore, the Stewards issued a formal reprimand against Mr Patching.

Appeal Rights:

Mr Patching was advised of his right to appeal to the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel.