

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Warning: This report contains language which some readers may find offensive.

Date of decision: 21 July 2020
Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind
Name of relevant person: Mr Luke Adams
Track: Bulli
Date: 18 April 2020
Rule no.: Rule 86(f)(iv); Rule 86(f)(iii)
Charge(s): (1) Mr Adams used contemptuous, unseemly, improper and offensive language towards or in relation to a kennel attendant.
(2) Mr Adams used contemptuous, unseemly, improper and offensive language and engaged in unseemly and improper conduct towards or in relation to an On-Track Veterinarian.

Disciplinary action taken:

Charge 1: \$600 fine, with \$450 wholly and conditionally suspended;
Charge 2: \$600 fine, with \$450 wholly and conditionally suspended.

DECISION:

1. Mr Adams was, at all material times, a registered greyhound trainer.
2. On 18 April 2020, Mr Adams attended at Bulli Greyhound Racing Club to assist another participant who had a greyhound nominated to compete that day.
3. Due to COVID-19, the Commission and Greyhound Racing NSW (“GRNSW”) introduced protocols to ensure interactions between all persons in attendance were kept to a minimum. This included a kennel attendant taking the greyhound from their handler and presenting the greyhound to the on-track veterinarian (“OTV”) for pre-kennelling examination. The kennel attendant would then return the greyhound to its handler.

4. During the kennelling process, Mr Adams was waiting in line with the greyhound on behalf of the other participant.
5. The kennel attendant approached Mr Adams to collect the greyhound in accordance with the new policy. Mr Adams advised the kennel attendant: *"the dog is timid, I want to put it up"*.
6. The OTV heard the request by Mr Adams and refused the request, instead instructing the kennel attendant to pass him the greyhound.
7. The kennel attendant took the greyhound by the lead from Mr Adams and attempted to walk the greyhound to the examination table. The greyhound refused to walk so the kennel attendant picked up the greyhound, walked over to and placed the greyhound on the examination table.
8. Once the OTV had conducted the examination of the greyhound, the kennel attendant picked the greyhound up off the examination table on the instruction of the OTV. As the kennel attendant was attempting to place the greyhound on the ground, it started to kick out against him and kicked free from his grasp. The greyhound yelped and then landed on the ground, hitting its head.
9. The kennel attendant then bent over to tend to the greyhound. Mr Adams then approached the greyhound and yelled words to the effect of: *"I fucking told you I wanted to carry the cunt up"*.
10. The OTV then removed his face mask, threw it on the ground and yelled: *like a trainer needs an excuse to whinge*". Mr Adams then responded with words to effect of: *"What did you say?"* and *"Talk about whinging cunt..."*
11. A short argument then ensued between Mr Adams, the OTV and the owner of the greyhound.
12. A Steward on duty at Bulli then intervened and checked the greyhound to ensure that it had not been injured. After the Steward had been satisfied that the greyhound had not been injured during the incidents, Mr Adams then took the greyhound to be kennelled.
13. While Mr Adams was kennelling the greyhound, he had a further argument with the OTV during which he said words to the effect of: *"let's take this outside"*.
14. After considering the evidence following the completion of the Commission's investigation, the Commission charged Mr Adams with a breach of Rule 86(f)(iii) and Rule 86(f)(iv) which read:

Rule 86(f)(iii) and (iv)

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-

...

(f) engages in, publishes or causes to be published, broadcasts or causes to be broadcast, the use of any contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive language, conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to-

...

- (iii) the Controlling Body, or a member of the Controlling Body;
- (iv) any other person having official duties in relation to greyhound racing...

15. Mr Adams admitted the charges and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.

16. The Commission found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Adams:

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| Charge 1 (R86(f)(iv)): | To issue Mr Adams with a \$600 fine, with \$450 wholly suspended for 12 months on the condition that he does not breach Rule 86(f) during that 12-month period; |
| Charge 2 (R86(f)(iii)): | To issue Mr Adams with a \$600 fine, with \$450 wholly suspended for 12 months on the condition that he does not breach Rule 86(f) during that 12-month period. |

17. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:

- Mr Adams has been a registered trainer for approximately 4 years;
- NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
- Mr Adams has no relevant prior matters in his disciplinary history;
- Mr Adams' admission of the charges at the earliest opportunity;
- The context in which the offences occurred.

.....End.....