

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Warning: This report contains details which some readers may find offensive

Date of decision:	22 August 2023
Decision-makers:	Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Steward Sam Woolaston
Name of relevant person:	Anthony Andrews
Date:	February and March 2023
Rule no.:	Rule 156(f)(ii)
Charge(s):	Charges 1 - 4 Mr Anthony Andrews engaged in improper conduct by submitting applications through the GWIC online portal to name greyhounds that included proposed names of an offensive or sexual nature.
Plea:	Not guilty to all charges
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a 3-month suspension per charge, to be served concurrently. The penalty commences 23 August 2023 and expires 23 November 2023.

INVESTIGATION

1. On 13 October 2021, Mr Anthony Andrews became the registered owner of two unnamed greyhounds; “**Greyhound 1**” (ear brand NKDFP) & “**Greyhound 2**” (ear brand NKDFS) and has remained the registered owner since this time.
2. On 22 February 2023 Mr Andrews made application through the GWIC online portal to name “Greyhound 1”. The application included the following proposed names:
 - a. “Pillow Biter”;
 - b. “Salad Tosser”;
 - c. “Tossing Salad”; and
 - d. “Itchy Mickey”
3. On 27 February 2023 Mr Andrews was advised that the above choices were not accepted as they were inappropriate, and was asked to provide additional naming choices.
4. On 2 March 2023 Mr Andrews sent an email to the GWIC registration team containing the following proposed names for “Greyhound 1”:
 - a. “Shirt Lifter”;

- b. "Brownie Queen";
 - c. "Little Twink";
 - d. "Rice Queen";
 - e. "Chicken Queen";
 - f. "Bear meets twink";
 - g. "Twink and bear"; and
 - h. "Scat Play".
5. On 9 March 2023 Mr Andrews sent an email to the GWIC registration team containing the following proposed names for "Greyhound 1":
- a. "Pup play"; and
 - b. "Puppy play".
6. On 9 March 2023, Mr Andrews also made application through the GWIC online portal to name "Greyhound 2". The application contained the following proposed name:
- a. "Peta File".

DECISION:

7. On Monday 13 April 2023 Mr Andrews was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
8. In the Notice the decision makers issued four charges under Rule 156(f)(ii) and of the Greyhound Racing Rules and proposed a penalty of a 3-month disqualification for each charge. The relevant rule reads:

Rule 156(f)(ii), Rules

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 stewards:

...

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper

9. On 29 May 2023 and 30 May 2023, the decision-makers received written submissions from Mr Andrews, including not guilty pleas to the four charges issued. Mr Andrews also made verbal submissions at a hearing conducted on 3 July 2023.
10. After considering both the verbal and written submissions by Mr Andrews, on 10 July 2023, the decision-makers found him guilty of all four charges and extended Mr Andrews the opportunity to present any submissions in respect to the matter of penalty.
11. On 24 July 2023, the decision-makers received written submissions, including character references, from Mr Andrews in respect to the matter of penalty.

12. In addition to his written submissions, Mr Andrews made verbal submissions on penalty at a hearing conducted on 7 August 2023.
13. Having regard to Mr Andrews' submissions and his pleas, the decision-makers took the following disciplinary action against him:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Charge 1 (156(f)(ii)): | To issue a 3-month suspension; |
| Charge 2 (156(f)(ii)): | To issue a 3-month suspension; |
| Charge 3 (156(f)(ii)): | To issue a 3-month suspension; and |
| Charge 4 (156(f)(ii)): | To issue a 3-month suspension. |
14. The decision-makers determined that the penalties for charge 1 – 4 ought be served concurrently, with a total penalty of a 3-month suspension imposed. This penalty is to commence on Wednesday 23 August 2023 and expire on Thursday 23 November 2023.
15. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
- Mr Andrews not guilty plea;
 - Mr Andrews unblemished disciplinary record;
 - Mr Andrews written and verbal submissions;
 - Mr Andrews personal and professional circumstances;
 - His contrition and remorse displayed for his conduct;
 - The purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the greyhound racing industry; and
 - Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.

.....End.....