

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	1 December 2025
Decision-makers:	Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel and Steward Jason Hodder
Name of relevant person:	Steven Baker
Rule no(s):	Rule 159(5)(a), Rule 159(5)(b)
Charge(s):	<p>Charge 1 – R159(5)(a)</p> <p>Mr Baker did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by admitting an object containing animal material was used as a lure when an inspection was conducted at his registered kennel premises on 7 May 2025.</p> <p>Charge 2 – R159(5)(b)</p> <p>Mr Baker did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by being found in possession of an object containing animal material which could be used for the purpose of being a lure when an inspection was conducted at his registered kennel premises on 7 May 2025.</p>
Plea:	None entered
Disciplinary action taken:	<p>Charge 1 – To issue a 18 month disqualification</p> <p>Charge 2 – To issue a 18 month disqualification</p> <p>With the disqualification periods to run concurrently and commence 1 December 2025 and expire midnight 1 June 2027.</p>

DECISION

1. Mr Steven Baker was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer and Breeder with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission ("**Commission**").

2. On 7 May 2025 Mr Baker, at his registered kennel address, was found to be in possession of:
 - A lure which was subsequently determined, via morphological examination, to contain natural hair fibres; and
 - Mr Baker admitted to using the lure for the purpose of training greyhounds.
3. Possession of an object containing animal material which could be used as bait, quarry or lure is an offence under Rule 159(5)(b) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, and it is an offence under Rule 159(5)(a) of the Rules to use an item containing animal material on a premises where activities associated with greyhound racing occur.
4. On Friday 31 October 2025, Mr Baker was issued with a Notice of Charge and Proposed Disciplinary Action ("**Notice**"). In the Notice, decision makers issued Mr Baker with two charges under the Rules of Racing, which read:

Rule 159(5)(a), Rules

(5) A person who, in the opinion of a Controlling Body or the Stewards:

- (a) uses or attempts to use in connection with greyhound training or greyhound racing, anything containing animal material whether as bait, quarry, or lure;

Rule 159(5)(b), Rules

(5) A person who, in the opinion of a Controlling Body or the Stewards:-

...

- (b) attempts to possess, has possession of, or brings onto any premises, grounds or within the boundaries of any property where greyhounds are, or activities associated with greyhound racing occur or are intended to occur anything containing animal material, for the purpose of being, or which is reasonably likely to be or capable of being, used as bait, quarry or lure;
5. The Notice invited Mr Baker to attend a hearing on Monday 1 December 2025, at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charges and proposed penalties.
 6. On Monday 1 December 2025 Mr Baker failed to appear at the scheduled hearing. Decision makers made attempts to contact Mr Baker but were unsuccessful. Accordingly, the hearing was conducted in his absence.
 7. In lieu of having the opportunity to consider a plea or any submissions from Mr Baker on the charges and proposed penalties, the decision makers found the charges proven. Accordingly, decision makers imposed upon Mr Baker the following penalties

Charge 1 Rule 159(5)(a) – To issue a 18 month disqualification

Charge 2 Rule 159(5)(b) – To issue a 18 month disqualification

With the disqualification periods to run concurrently and commence 1 December 2025 and expire midnight 1 June 2027.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers had regard to all relevant evidence and material, including:

- Mr Baker's failure to attend the hearing on Monday 1 December 2025 and the lack of a plea or any submissions in respect of the charges and proposed penalties.
- The objective seriousness of the offences;
- Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct; and
- Decision makers made reference to Rule 159(5) for a disqualification period to be imposed unless a finding of special circumstances is made. In this matter, special circumstances were not established and accordingly a disqualification was the only available penalty.

.....End.....