



**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

**Date of decision:** 19 February 2026

**Decision-makers:** Steward Shane O'Shea, Steward Maddison Watson and Steward Stephanie Richards

**Name of relevant person:** Mr Pedro Cortes

**Date:** 11 June 2025

**Rule no:** 24(1)

**Charge(s):** Mr Cortes did something which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by retiring, without prior surgical sterilisation, a greyhound in his custody in circumstances not approved by the Controlling Body.

**Disciplinary action taken:** To issue a four month suspension  
With the suspension period to commence midnight Thursday 19 February 2026 and expire midnight Friday 19 June 2026.

**INVESTIGATION:**

1. Mr Cortes was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On or about Wednesday 11 June 2025 Mr Cortes retired a greyhound in his custody as a pet, that had not been surgically sterilised by a veterinarian, to a non-registered person in circumstances not approved by the Controlling Body.

**DECISION:**

3. On Wednesday 14 January 2026 Mr Cortes was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
4. In the Notice issued on 14 January 2026 the decision makers charged Mr Cortes with an offence under Rule 24(1) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

**Rule 24(1), Rules**

1. Unless a greyhound is being accepted by an adoption agency approved by a Controlling Body that undertakes sterilisation, the owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the time of such retirement as a pet must ensure that the greyhound has been surgically sterilised by a veterinarian before allowing the greyhound to leave their care and custody, except where a veterinarian certifies after examining that greyhound, to the satisfaction of a Controlling Body, that being sterilised would be detrimental to its welfare.
  
5. The Notice invited Mr Cortes to attend a hearing on Thursday 19 February 2026, at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the Charge and proposed penalty.
  
6. On Thursday 19 February 2026 Mr Cortes attended a hearing held via Microsoft Teams and;
  - Entered a plea of guilty
  
7. Following consideration of Mr Cortes' plea in respect of the charge and proposed penalty, the decision makers determined to take the following disciplinary action against Mr Cortes:

**Charge 1 – Rule 24(1) – To issue a four month suspension**

With the suspension period to commence midnight Thursday 19 February 2026 and expire midnight Friday 19 June 2026.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:
  - Mr Cortes' guilty plea (25% reduction)
  - Mr Cortes' registration history with no prior like offences;
  - Principles of general and specific deterrence with regard to what message is sent to the industry in respect of conduct as what occurred in this matter; and
  - GWIC Penalty Guidelines and penalty precedents.

.....End.....