

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	24 March 2026
Decision-makers:	Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel and Steward Jason Hodder
Name of relevant person:	Mr Robert Blakely
Date:	30 September 2024
Rule no(s):	Local Rule 34B(3), 24(1)
Charge(s):	Charge 1 – Local Rule 34B(3) Mr Blakely did something, which in the opinion of the Controlling Body constitutes an offence, by failing to adequately account for the whereabouts of a greyhound in his custody Charge 2 – R24(1) Mr Blakely 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.
Plea:	None entered
Disciplinary action taken:	
Charge 1 (Local Rule 34B(3)) –	9 Month Disqualification
Charge 2 (Rule 24(1)) –	4 Month Suspension

With the disqualification period commencing 24 March 2026 and expiring midnight 23 December 2026; and

With the suspension period commencing 24 December 2026 and expiring 23 April 2027.

INVESTIGATION:

1. Mr Blakely was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.

2. On Monday 30 September 2024 the Controlling Body received a transfer request for a greyhound in Mr Blakely's custody. The Controlling Body was unable to identify the new custodian of the greyhound.
3. Further, Mr Blakely had retired the greyhound, that had not been surgically sterilised by a veterinarian, as a pet to a non-registered person in circumstances not approved by the Controlling Body.

DECISION:

4. On Friday 13 February 2026 Mr Blakely was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 13 February 2026 the decision makers charged Mr Blakely with two offences under the Greyhound Racing Rules, which read:

Rule LR34B(3), Rules

(3) An offence is committed if a person fails to adequately account for the whereabouts of a greyhound.

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.
6. The Notice invited Mr Blakely to attend a hearing in relation to the Charges.
7. On Monday 23 February 2026 Mr Blakely failed to appear at the scheduled hearing. Decision makers made attempts to contact Mr Blakely but were unsuccessful. Accordingly, the hearing was conducted in his absence.
8. In lieu of having the opportunity to consider a plea or any submissions from Mr Blakely on the charges, the decision makers found the charges proven. Decision makers subsequently provided Mr Blakely with a Notice of Proposed Penalty, which outlined the penalties that they were considering imposing in relation to the offence. Mr Blakely was invited to make submissions in respect of the proposed penalties.
9. Following consideration of Mr Blakely's submissions in respect of the proposed penalties, decision makers determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

Charge 1 (Local Rule 34B(3)) – 9 Month Disqualification

Charge 2 (Rule 24(1)) – 4 Month Suspension

With the disqualification period commencing 24 March 2026 and expiring midnight 23 December 2026; and

With the suspension period commencing 24 December 2026 and expiring 23 April 2027.

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:

- Mr Blakely's failure to attend the hearing on Monday 23 February 2026 and the lack of a plea or any submissions in respect of the charges.
- Mr Blakely's disciplinary record, with no prior like offences;
- Mr Bakely's submissions on the proposed penalties;
- Mr Blakely's personal and professional circumstances;
- 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
- The purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure, in order to promote and protect the welfare of greyhounds.

11. This matter remains under investigation and this decision will be updated when the relevant greyhound is checked-in in accordance with GWIC's Check-In Policy and/or appropriate notifications are provided.

.....End.....