



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 24 April 2026

Decision-makers: Senior Steward Dean Degan and Steward Ken Storck

Name of relevant person: Leonard Polidano

Rule no(s): Rule 21(1)(d), Rule 148(4)

Charge(s): **Charge 1 – Rule 21(1)(d)**
Mr Polidano did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to provide veterinary attention when necessary to a greyhound in his custody.

Charge 2 – 148(4)
Mr Polidano did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by administering a Schedule 4 substance in circumstances other than which it was intended as prescribed.

Plea: Guilty to all charges

Disciplinary action taken: **Charge 1** – To issue a seven month disqualification
Charge 2 – To issue a \$300 fine

With the disqualification period commencing 3 May 2026 and expiring 3 December 2026

DECISION:

1. Mr Polidano was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On Thursday 8 May 2025, at his registered kennel address, Mr Polidano was found to be in custody of an injured greyhound (“**Greyhound**”) requiring veterinary attention.
3. In an interview with Officers on the Controlling Body on 20 May 2025, Mr Polidano admitted to treating the Greyhound with a schedule 4 substance that can only be prescribed for use on a GWIC registered greyhound by a veterinarian.
4. On Wednesday 11 February 2026 a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”), was issued to Mr Polidano. The Notice issued two charges, alleging breaches of the following Greyhound Racing Rules:

R21(1)(d), Greyhound Racing Rules

(1) A person must ensure that any greyhound in the person's care or custody, is at all times provided with:

(d) veterinary attention when necessary;

R148(4), Greyhound Racing Rules

(4) A person (other than a veterinarian) must not administer or allow to be administered, any Schedule 4 substance listed in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons contained in the Australian Poisons Standard (Cth) as amended from time to time, unless that substance is administered as it was intended to be when it was prescribed by a veterinarian who prescribed that substance in compliance with relevant Commonwealth, state and/or territory legislation for the treatment of those greyhounds under their care after taking all reasonable steps to ensure a therapeutic need exists for that substance.

5. The Notice invited Mr Polidano to attend a hearing and to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charges.
6. At a hearing held on Friday 27 February 2026 via Microsoft Teams Mr Polidano entered a plea of guilty to both charges, made verbal submissions and provided written submissions. The hearing was then adjourned to allow further submissions and evidence to be provided.
7. A further hearing was held on Friday 24 April 2026 via Microsoft Teams.
8. Following consideration of Mr Polidano's pleas and submissions, decision makers found the charges proven. At that time in the hearing, decision makers provided Mr Polidano with a Notice of Proposed Penalty, which outlined the penalties that they were considering imposing in relation to the offence. Mr Polidano was invited to make submissions in respect of the proposed penalties.
9. Following consideration of Mr Polidano's submissions in respect of the proposed penalties, decision makers determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

Charge 1 – Rule 21(1)(d) – To issue a seven month disqualification

Charge 2 – Rule 148(4) – To issue a \$300 fine

With the disqualification period commencing 3 May 2026 and expiring 3 December 2026

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers had regard to all relevant evidence and material, including:
 - The objective seriousness of the offence;
 - Mr. Polidano's guilty plea to both charges;
 - Mr. Polidano's 52-year registration history, with no like prior offences; and
 - The purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the greyhound racing industry

.....End.....