

Stewards Hearing Report

Date of Hearing: 5 March 2021
Venue of Hearing: The Meadows Greyhound Club
Name: Mr Mark Delbridge
Rule: **GAR 86 (q)**

Offence: The handling of 'Chopper Bale' at the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club on 13 February 2021 in a manner that was detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interests and image of greyhound racing.

Officiating Stewards: Mr Paul Searle and Mr Anthony Pearce

REPORT

On Friday 5 March 2021, GRV Stewards finalised an inquiry into the conduct of licensed person Mr Mark Delbridge when handling the greyhound 'Chopper Bale' shortly after Race 3 at the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club on 13 February 2021.

Evidence was taken from Trainer Mr Mark Delbridge, GRV Steward Ms Leonie Fahry and the on-track Veterinarian Dr Craig Finlayson. CCTV footage of the incident was also introduced into the inquiry.

After considering all of the evidence, Mr Delbridge was issued with a charge under GAR 86 (q), which reads;

GAR 86 - A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person - (q) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control, or promotion of greyhound racing.

The particulars being that at the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club on Saturday 13 February 2021, shortly after the running of Race 3, Mr Delbridge handled the distressed Chopper Bale in a manner that was detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interests and image of greyhound racing.

Mr Delbridge pleaded guilty to the charge. After considering submissions on penalty, the Stewards issued Mr Delbridge with a fine of \$3000 for the offence, with half suspended for 12 months, pending no further like-natured breaches. In determining penalty, Stewards took into consideration:

- Mr Delbridge's personnel antecedence and record with GRV.
- The plea of guilty and remorse shown by Mr Delbridge.
- The circumstances surrounding the commission of the offence.
- General and specific deterrence and the nature of the offence.
- The interests, welfare and image of greyhound racing.
- The outcome of Chopper Bale was not connected to this offence.

The Stewards take the opportunity here to remind all participants that the proper and sensible handling of greyhounds is non-negotiable and best practise principles shall be undertaken, at all times.

Paul SEARLE
CHIEF STEWARD - GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

NB: Steward Investigation/Hearing decisions are subject to Appeal under the Rules of Greyhound Racing.