

Investigative Stewards Hearing Report

25 November 2024

Date of Hearing: Wednesday 20 November 2024
Venue of Hearing: Greyhound Racing Victoria Head Office
Name: Mr Travis Walker
Date of offence: 9 March 2024

Officiating Chairman & Investigative Steward: Mr Damien Morris

REPORT

On 9 March 2024 GRV Stewards commenced an investigation regarding the death of seven greyhounds.

As a result of this investigation, GRV Stewards provided Animal Welfare Victoria with a brief of evidence that resulted in Mr. Travis Walker being charged with the following offences in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA).

- 1) s9(1)(b) Confine animals in a manner likely to cause unreasonable pain and suffering;
- 2) s9(1)(c) Omit to adequately supervise, leading to unreasonable pain and suffering;
- 3) s10(1) Commit acts of cruelty resulting in the death of an animal (seven counts).

These charges were heard and determined on 5 August 2024, at the Ballarat Magistrates Court, where Mr. Walker plead guilty to the charges, was convicted and the following penalty was imposed –

- a fine of \$3500.00, plus \$140.40 in statutory costs, and disqualification under s12(1)(A) of POCTA from owning or being responsible for any greyhound, other than his pets, for a period of three years.

Following this conviction, GRV Stewards believe it is appropriate to impose a penalty on Mr. Walker, in accordance with Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) 174(7) -

A Controlling Body or the Stewards may impose on a person any one or more of the penalties referred to in subrule (1) of this rule if:

(a) the person has been convicted of an offence by any court and the Controlling Body is satisfied that:

(ii) The person's continued rights and privileges would be prejudicial or contrary to the interests of the Controlling Body.

GRV Stewards impose the following penalty:

10-year period of disqualification from Greyhound Racing, commencing 5 August 2024

In determining penalty, the following factors were considered, namely:

- Mr. Walker's history of compliance as a registered GRV participant.
- Mr. Walker's plea of guilty at the first opportunity at the Ballarat Magistrates Court
- Mr. Walker's genuine remorse
- The conduct does not appear intentional and was more negligent without diminishing the seriousness of the conduct
- The seriousness of the behaviour and the detrimental impact on the greyhounds and the image and reputation of the industry
- Specific and general deterrence.



Mr Damien Morris
Head of Integrity and Welfare Operations
GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA