

10 September 2024

## **DECISION**

### **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

### **LEANNE REED**

- Date of hearing:** 3 September 2024
- Date of decision:** 3 September 2024
- Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson), Ms Danielle Hikri and Mr Robert Abrahams.
- Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.  
Ms Leanne Reed did not attend the hearing.
- Charges:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule ("GAR") 21(1)(c) states:  
(1) A person must ensure that any greyhound in the person's care or custody, is at all times provided with:  
(c) kennels constructed and of a standard approved by a Controlling Body which are adequate in size, and which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
- GAR 21(3) states:  
(3) A person shall not cause or permit, on any premises owned or occupied by that person, any condition that is likely to be dangerous to the health, welfare or safety of that greyhound.
- GAR 156(w) states:  
An offence is committed if a person (including an official):  
(w) fails to comply with a policy or code of practice adopted by a Controlling Body.
- GAR 156(h) states:  
An offence is committed if a person (including an official):  
(h) disobeys or fails to comply with a lawful order of a Controlling Body, the Stewards, or another person authorised

by a Controlling Body with official duties in relation to greyhound racing.

**Particulars:**

**Charge 1: GAR 21(1)(c)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a public trainer and breeder registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) (Member No.326577) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.

2. You were at all relevant times a person responsible for the care and supervision of the greyhounds housed at your GRV registered kennelling premises in Cranbourne East.

3. On 23 November 2023, GRIU Investigative Stewards attended your premises and identified a failure by you to provide the greyhounds in your care or custody with kennels, at all times, constructed and of a standard approved by GRV which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition, in that the kennels were not compliant with the 'Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds 2018', which included:

(a) Kennel flooring was dirt and covered with excess piles of faeces.

(b) Sleeping areas had concrete flooring with a scant amount of broken-down straw.

(c) Bedding provided was timber slatted pallets with no bedding material.

**Charge 2: GAR 21(3)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a public trainer and breeder registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) (Member No.326577) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.

2. You were at all relevant times a person responsible for the care and supervision of the greyhounds housed at your GRV registered kennelling premises in Cranbourne East.

3. On 23 November 2023, GRIU Investigative Stewards attended your premises and identified a failure by you to provide the greyhounds in your care or custody with kennels constructed and of a standard approved by GRV which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition, in that the kennels were not compliant with the 'Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds 2018', which included:

(a) Kennel flooring was dirt and covered with excess piles of faeces.

(b) Sleeping areas had concrete flooring with a scant amount of broken-down straw.

(c) Bedding provided was timber slatted pallets with no bedding material.

**Charge 3: GAR 156(w)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a public trainer and breeder registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) (Member No.326577 and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.

2. The Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds has been adopted by the Controlling Body since April 2019. The code of practice states;

**4.1 Establishment and Health Management Plan (EHMP)**

Every establishment must have an EHMP in place for general operational matters and greyhound management, welfare, socialisation, enrichment and education (as appropriate) that is reviewed annually. The EHMP may outline protocols that differ

from the requirements outlined in this Code. Where protocols are not specified, the requirements outlined in this Code apply.

3. You failed to ensure you complied with The Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds in that you do not have a valid Establishment Health Management Plan (EHMP) for your establishment.

**Charge 4: GAR 156(h)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a public trainer and breeder registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) (Member No.326577) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.

2. You were at all relevant times a person responsible for the greyhounds housed at your GRV registered kennelling premises namely Cranbourne East.

3. On 23 November 2023, you were issued with a Lawful Order by a Steward, by way of a Notice of Direction which stated, "You are required to ensure that your kennels located at 4 Burchill Avenue, Cranbourne East, VIC 3977 comply with all aspects of Greyhound Australasia Rule 21 Proper Care for and Welfare of Greyhounds, namely, all aspects of subsection (1)(c). All kennels must be cleaned of all excess faeces. Remove and dispose of all rubbish, chewed bedding material, and any other debris". Compliance was required by 27 November 2023.

5. On 28 November 2023, GRIU Operations Manager and GVAR General Manager attended the premises and identified a failure to provide the greyhounds in your care or custody with kennels constructed and of a standard approved by Greyhound Racing Victoria which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition, in that the kennels were not compliant with the 'Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds 2018', which included:

(a) Kennel flooring was dirt and covered with excess piles of faeces.

(b) Sleeping areas had concrete flooring with a scant amount of broken-down straw.

(c) Bedding provided was timber slatted pallets with no bedding material.

4. You failed to comply with the Lawful Order of a Steward in relation to greyhound racing.

**Pleas:** Not Guilty

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## **DECISION**

Ms Leanne Reed has been charged with four offences. She did not appear at this hearing. She has previously stated that she would not be attending. The Assistant Registrar rang Ms Reed prior to the hearing commencing. She repeated briefly and clearly that she would not be participating and hung up.

In those circumstances, we treated her as pleading “not guilty” and required the case of the Stewards to be proved to our comfortable satisfaction. Mr Anthony Pearce, on behalf of the Stewards, referred to all necessary documents and summarised the Charges.

We are comfortably satisfied that each Charge has been proven and accordingly there is a finding of guilty on each Charge.

Mr Pearce addressed us on the question of penalty and referred us to other relevant decisions. He put forward the proposed penalty for each Charge. We agree with his proposals.

Charges 1 and 2 overlap to a considerable degree. Each concerns the state of the kennels in which the two dogs in question were kept. Charge 2 could be summarised as having premises for the dogs which are in a condition of being dangerous to their health.

Charge 3 involves the absence of an Establishment Health Management Plan (“EHMP”) and is more related to proper administration.

Charge 4 concerns a failure to comply with directions in relation to the state of the kennels, sleeping arrangements, sanitary conditions and the like. It should be pointed out that the Stewards made two visits, the earlier being on 23 November 2023 and the latter being on 28 November 2023.

We accept that it is probable that Ms Reed, who has only been registered since 2021, had these two dogs left with her and failed to look after them. She has stated a firm view as to her no longer being interested in involvement in the industry.

Obviously, the health and welfare of greyhounds is of paramount importance. The same could be said of compliance with the directions of the Stewards in relation to the proper and hygienic upkeep of kennels. Happily, in the present case, the animals themselves came to no serious harm and were later transferred by the Stewards into the Greyhound Adoption Program ("GAP").

The penalties we impose are as follows: -

Charge 1: disqualification for three months. This penalty is wholly concurrent with the penalty imposed on Charge 2.

Charge 2: disqualification for six months.

Charge 3: \$500 fine.

Charge 4: disqualification for six months. This penalty is cumulative with the penalty imposed on Charge 2.

Thus, the effective total penalty imposed is disqualification for a period of 12 months and a fine of \$500.

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Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal