11 April 2022

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**ANDREW WOOD**

**Date of hearing:** 25 March 2022

**Panel:** Justice Shane Marshall (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.

**Appearances:** Mr Marwan El-Asmar appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Andrew Wood represented himself.

Mr Don Hayley appeared as a witness.

**Charges:** Local Racing Rule (“LR”) 42.9(a) states:

Where a greyhound has died (whether due to natural causes, accident, misadventure, euthanasia or otherwise):

(a) within 2 working days of the date of death (and prior to the disposal of the body of the deceased greyhound), the Owner or person responsible for the greyhound must notify the Board in the prescribed form of the death of the greyhound and provide a veterinary certificate of euthanasia where available (including, without limitation, the written certificate or letter referred to in LR 42.8).

LR 42.6(i) states:

An Owner must

(i) Keep detailed records of their compliance with 42.6.

**Particulars of charges:** **Charge 1: LR 42.9(a)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) (Member No. 4725) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.
2. From 28 August 2015 you were, the owner of, and had the care of, retired greyhound “Cosmic Madness” (VCFKI).
3. On an unknown date in 2019, you found this greyhound (VCFKI) deceased in their kennel.
4. You failed to notify the Board within 2 working days of the death of Cosmic Madness (VCFKI) in the prescribed form.

**Charge 2: LR 42.6(a)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) (Member No. 4725) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.
2. From 26 March 2018 you were, the owner of, and had the care of, retired greyhound “Jagger Moment” (VFOVI).
3. On an unknown date in 2020, you found this greyhound (VFOVI) deceased in their kennel.
4. You failed to notify the Board within 2 working days of the death of Jagger Moment (VFOVI) in the prescribed form.

**Charge 3: LR 42.9(a)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) (Member No. 4725) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.
2. From 18 December 2015 you were, the owner of, and had the care of, greyhound Unnamed (VETIQ).
3. On 30 May 2018 this greyhound was retired to you as a pet.
4. On an unknown date after being retired to you as a pet, this greyhound was euthanised by the Mobile Vet Clinic conducted at Traralgon Greyhound Racetrack.
5. You failed to notify the Board within 2 working days of the death of Unnamed Greyhound (VETIQ) in the prescribed form.

**Charge 4: LR 42.9(a)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) (Member No. 4725) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.
2. From 18 December 2015 you were, the owner of, and had the care of, retired greyhound Unnamed (VETIT).
3. On 29 June 2018, this greyhound was retired to you as a pet.
4. On an unknown date after being retired to you as a pet, this greyhound was euthanised by the Mobile Vet Clinic conducted at Traralgon Greyhound Racetrack.
5. You failed to notify the Board within 2 working days of the death of Unnamed Greyhound (VETIT) in the prescribed form.

**Charge 5: LR 42.6(i)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) (Member No. 4725) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.
2. On 18 December 2015, you became the registered owner of the greyhound ‘Unnamed’ (VETIN).
3. On 5th of May 2019, this greyhound was retired to you as a pet.
4. On an unknown date, after being retired to you as a pet, this greyhound (VETIN) was rehomed to a third party.
5. You failed to keep detailed records of this rehoming including to whom and the location of where the greyhound Unnamed (VETIN) was rehomed.

**Charge 6: LR 42.6(i)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) (Member No. 4725) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.
2. On the 18 December 2015, you became the registered owner of the greyhound “Unnamed” (VETIO).
3. On 30 May 2018, this greyhound was retired to you as a pet.
4. On an unknown date after being retired to you as a pet, this greyhound (VETIO) was rehomed to a third party.

1. You failed to keep detailed records of this rehoming including to whom and the location of where the greyhound Unnamed (VETIO) was rehomed.

**Charge 7: LR 42.6(i)**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) (Member No. 4725) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.
2. On 1 June 2015, you became the registered owner of the greyhound “Unnamed” (VETCH).
3. On 15 March 2018, this greyhound was retired to you as a pet.
4. On an unknown date after being retired to you as a pet, this greyhound (VETCH) was rehomed to a third party.
5. You failed to keep detailed records of this rehoming including to whom and the location of where the greyhound Unnamed (VETCH) was rehomed.

**Pleas:** Guilty to all charges

**DECISION**

1. Mr Andrew Wood is a registered greyhound trainer. He has pleaded guilty to seven charges laid against him by Stewards of Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”).
2. Four of the charges concern Mr Wood’s failure to notify GRV of the deaths of four greyhounds within seven days of their deaths, as required by Local Racing Rule (“LR”) 42.9.
3. Three of the charges relate to Mr Wood’s failure to keep detailed records regarding his compliance with administrative requirements in relation to his rehoming of three greyhounds under LR 42.6(i).
4. Mr Wood’s lack of compliance with LR 42.9(a) and LR 42.6(i) arose from a misunderstanding that he did not need to notify GRV that the greyhounds were rehomed.
5. His offending was inadvertent. However, ignorance of the Rules of Racing for a racing participant is not an excuse, but it helps to put the offence in context.
6. Mr Wood has no prior offences. He was co-operative with the Stewards and extremely remorseful. He is of good character.
7. It is important for welfare purposes for GRV to keep track of what happens to retired greyhounds. Mr Wood now appreciates that fact.
8. On the first charge under LR 42.9(a), we impose a penalty of three months suspension wholly suspended for 24 months, as well as a fine of $500. On Charges 2, 3 and 4, we impose a penalty of three months suspension wholly suspended for 24 months on each charge. The penalties imposed on Charges 2, 3 and 4 are wholly concurrent with the penalty on Charge 1.
9. On the fifth charge we impose a fully suspended penalty of 3 months suspension for a period of 24 months and a $500 fine. We impose identical suspensions, but no fine, on Charges 6 and 7 and make them wholly concurrent with the penalty under Charge 5. The penalty on Charge 5 will be cumulative with the penalty on Charge 1. The result is that we impose a total penalty of 6 months suspension fully suspended for a period of 24 months and a fine of $1,000.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal