14 August 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**FREDERICK ZEINERT**

**Date of Hearing:** 14 August 2025

**Date of Decision:** 14 August 2025

**Panel:** Magistrate Peter Reardon (Chairperson), Judge Paul Lacava (Deputy Chairperson) and Mr Josh Bornstein.

**Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Frederick Zeinert represented himself.

**Charge:** Local Racing Rule (“LR”) 14.4.2 states:

14.4 It is a Serious Offence to:

14.4.2 to be directly or indirectly involved in, or knowingly concerned with, the death of a greyhound other than in accordance with LR 14.1 or the disposal of a greyhound other than in accordance with LR 14.3.3.

**Particulars of charges: Charge 1**

 1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) (Member No. 4845) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.

2. You have failed to dispose of the body of a deceased greyhound other than in accordance with LR 14.3.3, in that:

(a) At all relevant times, you had the care and control of the greyhound, “Super Tart” (VBTMB);

(b) On or around 15 June 2024, Super Tart was found deceased in your kennels;

(c) You have, without approval, buried Super Tart on your property.

**Charge 2**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) (Member No. 4845) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and Local Racing Rules.

2. You have failed to dispose of the body of a deceased greyhound other than in accordance with LR 14.3.3, in that:

(a) At all relevant times, you were the Owner of, and had the care and control of, the greyhound “Unnamed” (VFUIF);

(b) On or around 16 June 2024, this Unnamed greyhound was found deceased in your kennels;

(c) You have, without approval, buried this Unnamed greyhound on your property.

**Pleas:** Guilty

**DECISION**

1. Mr Frederick Zeinert was, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”) and the Local Racing Rules (“LR”).
2. Mr Zeinert has been charged with two breaches of LR 14.4.2 and has pleaded guilty to both charges. The charges relate to the deaths of two greyhounds on his property and the improper disposal of the bodies of those greyhounds. They are serious offences and have therefore been directly referred to this Tribunal.
3. Charge 1 relates to the greyhound, “Super Tart”, which was in his care since February 2024 and had been retired as a pet since May 2016. Mr Zeinert found Super Tart deceased on his property on 15 June 2024. Without seeking permission from GRV, he then proceeded to bury the greyhound and thereby, disposed of the greyhound without having first received approval from GRV to do so.
4. Charge 2 relates to an unnamed greyhound owned by Mr Zeinert. This greyhound was in his care from June 2016 and was retired as a pet in March 2021. This greyhound was found deceased by him on 16 June 2024 and was buried. Again, Mr Zeinert disposed of the greyhound without having first received approval from GRV to do so.
5. On 17 June 2024, Mr Zeinert contacted GRV to notify them of the deaths of the greyhounds. The deaths were properly reported within two days of the deaths occurring however, at the time of reporting the deaths, he had not received the approval to bury each greyhound.
6. An investigation into the matter was commenced and Mr Zeinert was interviewed, via telephone, by the Stewards on 12 August 2024. When asked about the events as outlined above, he made the following comments regarding the greyhound Super Tart:
7. “I think she came into contact with a rat bait I had on the property”; and
8. “I buried her on the property and did not understand notifications”.
9. In relation to the unnamed greyhound, Mr Zeinert said:
10. “I had arranged for a vet to visit but the greyhound died the day prior and I believe she died of cancer”; and
11. “I buried her on the property and did not understand notifications”.
12. Mr Zeinert has also stated during the course of this hearing that, at the time, it was very hot, and he did not want to just leave the bodies of the dogs unburied in that heat.
13. Mr Zeinert has pleaded guilty to both charges. His pleas were entered at the earliest opportunity, and he fully cooperated with the Stewards regarding their inquiry into the matter. He is therefore entitled to a significant discount in sentencing.
14. Mr Zeinert is aged 81 years and has been involved as a participant for approximately 60 years. He has an excellent record. At his age and with only a small greyhound operation, the Tribunal accepts it is more a hobby rather than a business.
15. The Tribunal also accepts Mr Zeinert’s explanation for the offences as he did contact GRV to notify them of the deaths. The offences were ultimately committed through his ignorance of the Rules, rather than with any sinister intent. However, it should be noted that ignorance of the Rules is not an excuse. GRV participants should be aware and up to date about their obligations and responsibilities if they wish to participate in the greyhound racing industry.
16. These offences are towards the lower level of seriousness. General deterrence is necessary for GRV to carry out its obligations and responsibilities to maintain a clean and transparent industry, as well as a safe environment for participants, including having regard for the welfare of greyhounds.
17. The Stewards do not suggest specific deterrence is relevant and have described Mr Zeinert as a model trainer.
18. In all the circumstances, the penalties imposed by the Tribunal are as follows:

Charge 1: one month suspension, which is wholly suspended for 12 months pending no further relevant offences during that time.

Charge 2: one month suspension, which is wholly suspended for 12 months pending no further relevant offences during that time. This penalty is to be served concurrently with the penalty imposed on Charge 1.

Kathleen Scully

Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal