

Submission
No 52

**INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Name: Mr Alexander Verhagen

Date Received: 4 December 2020

Partially
Confidential

If you need to contact someone at GWIC, eg Legal section, Chief Veterinary Officer, CEO or a Supervisor you will not be put through to them You will be told by customer service that they will send whoever you want to contact an email and they will get in touch with you. BUT THEY NEVER CONTACT YOU. I needed to contact the Chief Veterinary Office, left 4 messages with customer service. THE CHIEF VET CONTACTED ME 8 WEEKS LATER. In the last 6 months I have sent 8 emails to various sections of GWIC seeking information and direction about matters. NOT ONE REPLY.

In September, 2019 I got a positive swab to cobalt in a pre race swab. On the 31st October 2019 I was charged with Detection of a Prohibited Substance. I was served with a brief of evidence. In the brief there was a GWIC form. GREYHOUND SAMPLE COLLECTION OPERATIONS SHEET AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY. This form was incorrectly filled out or not signed. This questions the integrity of the custody of the swab. I submitted submissions to Mr Mathew TUTT Senior Legal Adviser GWIC that with the compromise of Integrity I should have no charge to answer. Mr TUTT then got statements from the racing stewards concerned some 8 weeks later re the handling of the swabs. MR TUTT then informed me that the integrity was not compromised and nothing changed what was contained in the swab bottles. I was suspended for 18 weeks..

On the 26th September,2019 Inspector [redacted] and Dr [redacted] VET attended my premises for a Kennel inspection. Inspector [redacted] spoke about some welfare issues. I requested a written work direction notice, He said he will email it to me. NEVER RECEIVED IT. I was given 14 days to rectify the problems. Mr [redacted] a friend who helped me with training and looking after the dogs made application to train his greyhounds out of my kennels. He had no response from GWIC for 3 months until the 23rd July2020 when Inspector [redacted] attended for a Kennel Inspection in relation to Mr [redacted] application to train from my kennels. [redacted] discussed some compliance issue and gave 14 days to rectify. I received the work directive by email 6 weeks later. On this date Mr [redacted] also handed me a report from DR [redacted] written in September, 2019. Mr [redacted] contacted GWIC re his application to train from my kennels. He was told it was declined as my kennels had been non-compliant since September 2019. Inspector [redacted] again attended my kennels on the 7th and 14th August he never said the kennels were compliant or not. No further work directive has been issued or any non-compliance issues cleared. I am still training greyhounds rearing and spelling dogs for other people. Mr [redacted] was made to remove all his dogs from my property or face disciplinary action. In September I was given approval to whelp a litter of pups for owner [redacted] but as soon as they are earbranded and micro chipped they must be removed from my property as my kennels are still no compliant.

I am 65 years old, disabled above knee amputation. On Friday,28 November 2020 I was advised by [redacted] from GWIC registrations that I could no longer assist Mr [redacted] 90 years of age and Mr [redacted] 87 years of age with nominating their greyhounds or any other matters relating to GWIC as it is a breach of regulations as they both use my email address but can be contacted by there mobile phones.. Neither person knows anything about emails or sms. I have been doing this for the past 10 years.. They will both have to give racing there loving greyhounds away. This is what gets tyhe men out of bed every day. I just feel because I am outspoken about GWIC I am bullied and Harrassed by GWIC

YOU CAN TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF A GREYHOUND ON LINE BUT NEED A HARD COPY WITH SIGNATURE TO CHANGE PRIZE MONEY SPLIT BETWEEN OWNER AND TRAINER.

GWIC will tell you of decisions made by them but will not put them in writing, then deny that is what they said. 9 weeks ago I rehomed a 5 week old pup with a broken leg to a rescue group. I rang GWIC and told them what i did. I was informed that I face disciplinary action. I submitted a retirement form for the pup then when it came to the registration of the litter I was refused registration because you can't give away a dog not desexed. it costs me time and money and lost sales whilst i waited to get it sorted out. I submitted an email seeking directions about how to get around this problem 8 weeks prior to registration. but got no reply until I inquired as to what was the hold up. That's how they bully and intimidate

Disciplinary matters don't follow rules of the law. There is no independent appeals process. Disciplinary penalties are inconsistent Grading system is the worst ever.. short course grading is up to 420m

The new code of Practice will bring greyhound racing to its knees. GWIC inspectors over step their powers. Enter properties and kennels when trainer is not present. All inspections should be by appointment unless there is a warrant. Inspectors refuse to leave properties when registered participant is not present. there should be no video or voice recording unless a copy is made available to the registered participant at the time.