

Privileges revoked

Thu, Jun 12, 2014

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The action was taken as a result of a May 15 NGA inspection that disclosed greyhounds on the facility not receiving proper care and adequate shelter. NGA inspectors were accompanied by local law enforcement during the inspection. Subsequently, Vonderstrasse voluntarily turned all 141 greyhounds under his care over to the NGA the next morning, and they were then transported either to Abilene or to the W. Memphis area via four different vehicles—three of which were quickly sent to the site after the inspection for evacuation. Under the direction of the NGA, the greyhounds have since been provided with appropriate care and necessarily attention. Most of the greyhounds have since been returned to their rightful owners.

The NGA has placed a lien on remaining greyhounds still in its possession. Some will be offered at public auction later in the month, while others will be placed with credible adoption agencies.

Vonderstrasse, who had not renewed his NGA membership for 2014, has been given until July 7 to transfer any remaining greyhounds out of his name. Moreover, the Board ruled that anyone conducting any type of greyhound business with Vonderstrasse after that date could also be subject to punitive action from the Board.

In addition to placing greyhounds under his stewardship at risk, Vonderstrasse was cited by NGA for failing to comply with registry requirements with NGA—specifically, for not tattooing or registering pups in a timely manner—and for not responding to NGA edicts in regard to registrations and complaints.

“This was an unusual case that required NGA’s immediate action and full attention,” said NGA Exec. Dir. Gary Guccione. “NGA representatives and members responded to the situation swiftly and effectively. We can’t thank enough those individuals who’ve been involved for their willingness to assist in getting these greyhounds to safety and for helping nurture them back to full health. The adoption community stands ready, as well, to assist in the last leg of this situation—for which we’re extremely grateful.”

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