



SOUTHLAND PARK BOARD OF JUDGES

Judge's Summary

DATE: 04-18-2012 #1-2012

TEXT

During the early morning hours on Saturday, April 14, 2012 representatives of the David Blair Kennel (Trainer J.J. Moore and Asst. Trainer Will Rodgers) received 17 inbound greyhounds from a private dog hauler normally used by the kennel operation. The dog hauler arrived at approximately 5:00 a.m. on the day noted and as they were unloading the greyhounds from the trailer, one greyhound was found deceased. Upon initial inspection by the kennel representatives and haulers, no obvious reason could be determined for the death. All other greyhounds appeared fine and took the trip well. Mr. Rogers at this time placed the deceased greyhound in his dog truck for approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours while he and trainer J.J. Moore completed their morning kennel work. Mr. Rogers requested advice from another kennel owner (Robert Thorne) on what to do with the deceased greyhound. From that point Mr. Rogers requested assistance from Trainer Gerald Love of the Mike Harris Kennel to remove the greyhound from the premises. They transported the greyhound to a local veterinary clinic to be humanely disposed of (approximately 8:30 a.m.). During weigh-in of that afternoon's official races, Racing Secretary Bryan Earney was notified by a different individual that a greyhound had died and been removed from the premises and taken to the local vet clinic without proper notification. Mr. Earney then contacted the clinic to verify that there was, in fact, a greyhound there for disposal that had not been reported in accordance with Southland Park's policy #1150. Upon finding this information out, Mr. Earney immediately contacted Shane Bolender (Director of Racing). Mr. Bolender then ordered that Ms. Moore and Mr. Rogers report to the Paddock as soon as possible. They were then questioned by Mr. Bolender and Mr. Earney. Upon investigation and questioning of those two individuals, verbal statements made by Mr. Rogers and Ms. Moore indicated that they failed to report the deceased greyhound because they did not have contact numbers for either the Director of Racing, Racing Secretary or the State Veterinarian in their cell phones. In addition, while stating that they have received and read the "Kennel Information Packet" that contained policies regarding deceased greyhounds on the grounds, they claimed they were unaware that the policy pertained to arriving deceased greyhounds and also believed that it only applied to those deceased inside the secured kennel compound. Ms. Moore concurred with Mr. Rogers statements even going so far as to state she wasn't aware of the deceased greyhound policy at all. Mr. Bolender questioned Mr. Rogers that if the deceased greyhound was not discovered inside the kennel compound, where was it discovered at? Mr. Rogers said that the transfer and discovery of the deceased greyhound occurred outside of the compound gates in the general semi-truck parking lot. Ms. Moore initially said during this opening investigation that to her knowledge it was in the trucking lot as well, but later changed her story as to not knowing where this transfer occurred because she was at the kennel with the newly arrived greyhounds. Mr. Rogers admitted that he had help in transport of the deceased greyhound from Mr. Gerald Love. Later that afternoon, Mr. Love was then questioned by Mr. Earney on his involvement in this matter. Mr. Love confirmed Mr. Rogers's initial statements. Upon further investigation it was discovered that the transfer of the greyhound had in fact taken place inside the compound (immediately outside of their kennel building) and not as previously stated by both. Later on that same day, after being made aware that video surveillance would be used to confirm the story, Mr. Rogers returned to the racing office and requested Mr. Earney and or Mr. Bolender's attention. Mr. Rogers handed Mr. Earney a letter in which he stated that he "lied" during his initial questioning by Mr. Bolender and Mr. Earney and apologized for doing so. Specifically, he lied that the transfer of the deceased greyhound did in fact occur inside the compound until it was ultimately transported to the clinic. Mr. Love was then questioned again and recanted his original statement as well, confirming that they put the deceased dog in the back of his truck inside the kennel compound for transport to the veterinary clinic. Mr. Love also confirmed that Mr. Rogers approached him earlier that day before he recanted his story and the two discussed the situation before hand in order to get their stories straight.

Upon notification to the Judges of the conclusion of the initial investigation, the Southland Board of Judges issued notice of hearings to Mr. Rogers, Ms. Moore and Mr. Love. The initial charges of violations were of Southland Park's Rule # 1150, and ASRC rules 1350 and 1352 were made.

The Board of Judges held a hearing on Wednesday April 18, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. to hear the case in respect to the charges made in this matter.

Upon conclusion of the hearing the Board of Judges hereby issue rulings 14, 15 & 16-2012.

BRYAN EARNEY, RACING SECRETARY

DOROTHY FOSTER, COMMISSION JUDGE

JOE MOSS, PRESIDING JUDGE

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