

Decision

Tasracing Integrity Unit and Christopher Hepburn

Date of Decision: 30 June 2026

Decision Makers: Ms Barbara Scott, Mr Arnold Hyde, Mr Trevor Styles

Respondents: Mr. Christopher Hepburn

Rule: L22.15(a), L22.12

Charge: Christopher Hepburn, you were at all relevant times a greyhound trainer licensed by Tasracing and a person bound by the Greyhound Australia and Tasmanian Local Rules of Greyhound Racing. You were the person responsible for the care and welfare of the retired greyhound Devil's Gate.

On 12 November 2025, Devil's Gate suffered a catastrophic throat injury following a dog attack. You euthanised Devil's Gate with your licenced firearm and buried Devil's Gate on your property.

L22.15(a) – where a greyhound has died either suddenly or unexpectedly (whether due to natural causes, accident, misadventure, euthanasia under L 22.12 or the cause is other unknown), the owner or person responsible for the greyhound must notify the TIU before the close of business on the next working day of the death and seek permission to dispose of the body of the deceased greyhound.

L22.12 – Local Rule 22.11 shall not apply if immediate euthanasia is obviously essential:

- i) To alleviate the greyhound from suffering following a catastrophic injury or medical condition/illness; and
- ii) The greyhound cannot be transported to a veterinarian within a period of one hour at regular driving speeds, and;
- iii) The euthanasia is carried out under the direction of a veterinarian unless every avenue possible has been explored to contact a veterinarian in which case evidence of those efforts must be documented and provided to the TIU.

Plea: To charge L22.15(a) - Guilty

To charge L22.12 - Guilty

Penalties: L22.15(a) - \$400

L22.12 - \$1000

Decision:

1. Mr. Hepburn was at all relevant times a licenced greyhound trainer.
2. On 12 November 2025, Devil's Gate was attacked by another dog while unrestrained in Mr Hepburn's vehicle. Devil's Gate suffered a catastrophic throat injury.
3. Following the dog attack, Mr Hepburn did not contact a veterinarian but made the decision to euthanise Devil's Gate using his licenced firearm.
4. Mr Hepburn buried Devil's Gate on his property.
5. Mr Hepburn failed to advise the TIU within the required time and failed to seek permission to dispose of Devil's Gate body.
6. In arriving at Penalty, the Decision Makers considered all available evidence including:
 - the guilty plea for both charges;
 - that Mr Hepburn failed to contact a veterinarian prior to euthanasia;
 - the TIU become aware of the incident through contact with Mr Hepburn in relation to a separate matter;
 - his verbal submissions;
 - his personal circumstances;
7. Mr Hepburn was advised of his appeal rights.

Dated: 2 July 2026.