

Unable to playback video

Smarter than your average hound

National

South Australian greyhound trainer fined over 'sexually stimulating' dog before race

Jade Gailberger, The Advertiser

January 24, 2017 11:30am

 Subscriber only

- [Greyhound industry may drop vow to limit yearly pup numbers](#)
- [David Penberthy: SA greyhound racing industry deserves a chance](#)

A SOUTH Australian greyhound trainer has been fined after he was caught on television “sexually stimulating” a dog before it raced.

The incident occurred at an Angle Park meeting late last month, when trainer Tony Rasmussen handled greyhound Crisis Bale “in the vicinity of its genital region” before loading it into the starting boxes.

In the steward’s race report, Crisis Bale was reported to start slowly.

Greyhound Racing SA stewards launched an inquiry into the incident, and considered video footage from Sky Racing as part of the evidence.

Mr Rasmussen pleaded not guilty to the charge, but stewards “deemed his actions to be improper” and found him guilty under Greyhound Racing Rule 86(o).

Following the inquiry, acting head of integrity Lisa Michalanney wrote that Mr Rasmussen’s standing in the industry was taken into consideration by stewards, but “participants must uphold the image of our industry at all times and that the vision was in full view of the public via television”.

Mr Rasmussen was fined \$1000, with \$250 suspended for a period of two years on the condition he does not reoffend.

Last year, Mr Rasmussen pleaded guilty to being involved in a verbal confrontation with another trainer and was fined \$400, with \$200 suspended under the same rule.

The owner of Crisis Bale, Paul Wheeler, from New South Wales, refused to comment on the charges but said he was looking into the incident.



📷 Greyhound racing trainer Tony Rasmussen.
Picture: Greyhound Racing SA

Animal welfare groups said they were unsure if the intention was to encourage Crisis Bale to run faster or slower, as it was the first time they had heard of the practice.

A greyhound trainer, who wished to remain anonymous, said the stimulation of the dog would make it run slower.

"I think it's appalling," he said.

"He was a bit stupid doing it in front of the camera."

Police said they were not involved in the incident because it was handled "in house" by GRSA.

A police spokesman said if "they considered it an act of animal cruelty" it could be referred to the RSPCA.

RSPCA South Australia chief executive officer Paul Stevenson said the incident showed a complete lack of respect by a trainer for a greyhound in their care.

"This incredibly poor behaviour demonstrates some deeply ingrained cultural attitudes within the industry that greyhounds are merely a racing product," he said.

"RSPCA South Australia believes animals must be treated with respect and not objectified, or subjected to indignity or ridicule."

Mr Rasmussen can appeal his guilty verdict.

Originally published as [Trainer fined for 'stimulation' of greyhound](#)