

**Statement in the matter of Greyhounds Tail Located Richmond Date: 17 December 2014**

**Name:** Norm Becroft  
**Address:** C/O Greyhound Racing New South Wales  
**Occupation:** Integrity Officer Greyhound Racing New South Wales

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give to an inquiry or court as a witness. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable for prosecution if I wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 44 years of age.
3. I am currently employed by Greyhound Racing New South Wales as an Integrity Officer. I have been appointed by the Controlling Body as a Steward and have been vested the powers of such office and position pursuant to the Greyhound Racing Rules and the relevant Legislative Acts.
4. On Wednesday 17 December 2014 I was rostered to perform duty at Richmond Race Track as the Steward on Course. Mr Ivan Akmacic was chairing the meeting from the control room at Rhodes.
5. After the running of Race 3 Greyhound Wilby Mighty was directed to attend the vets office to be inspected by GRNSW veterinarian Dr Greg Bryant. During the examination of Wilby Mighty I noticed the following. He was presented by Mr Gareth Miggins a licensed participant from Rockhampton Queensland. Further I saw that Wilby Mighty was a Blue Greyhound Dog that had an obvious serious injury to its tail. The tail had Blueish coloured hair and was missing hair on the end of the tail, I could see that the tail was broken and bent at an extreme angle approximately 9cm from the tip of the tail. I could see flesh and bone at this time. I heard Dr Bryant have a conversation with Mr Miggins about the Greyhounds welfare and the need for a fully functional vet clinic would be required to amputate the tail. I heard Dr Greg Bryant say to Mr Miggins words similar to, "you need to go a proper vet clinic that has all the equipment to amputate the tail, they'll have anaesthetic and bone cutters". You need to go tonight, this is quite serious and needs further attention" I heard Dr Bryant and Mr Miggins have a further conversation about the need for further veterinary attention and that Mr Miggins didn't think he could get to a vet clinic that night. Dr Bryant was very clear and most persistent in telling Mr Miggins that he had to go to a vet clinic for Wilby Mighty's welfare and to get further essential treatment, for him. I considered this as a

*Norm*

direction from Dr Bryant that Mr Miggins had to see a vet clinic, as soon as possible for the welfare and wellbeing of Wilby Mighty.

6. Whilst listening to this conversation and Mr Miggins responses with words similar to “I don’t know where the vet s are, how much will that cost, I don’t know if I can get there tonight” I formed the opinion that Mr Miggins was considering not attending a vet clinic as he had been directed to by Dr Bryant. As a result I felt it prudent to join the conversation and to ensure Mr Higgins understood that he was being officially told to attend a vet clinic as soon as possible. I said to Mr Miggins, “I’ve listened to the vet and his advice to you, I need you to understand that you have to go to a vet tonight, at the latest tomorrow morning to get the tail looked at, you do , understand that, don’t you”. He said “yeah, yeah I do but I don’t know where the greyhound vets are around here” I then had a conversation with Mr Miggins and explained that Id be happy to give him the details of Quakers Hill Vet Clinic, Dr Ted Humphries and Dr Chris Pappantino at Colyton vet clinic. I then proceeded to give Mr Miggins directions on how to get to Quakers Hill Vet Clinic and that they were one of the best greyhound vet clinics around. I then had a conversation with Dr Bryant and we both agreed to provide the details of Quakers Hill Vet Clinic in writing to Mr Miggins. Mr Miggins then inquired if Greyhound Racing New South Wales would pay all expenses to have the Greyhound Mighty Wilby taken to the vet clinic and operated on to which I answered that we would cover expenses at the track with our veterinarian however we wouldn’t cover the external expenses from a vet clinic that, that was his responsibility.
7. Dr Bryant stated that he was going to provide pain relief and bandage the tail, leaving the broken part of the tail attached and provide Quakers Hill Vet Clinic’s details to Mr Miggins, I wrote in my race book that the dog required an amputation and that the dog would receive a 14day incapacitation period. I then continued on with other duties. Later on during the night Dr Bryant informed me that he had written the contact details and address for Quakers Hill Vet Clinic and that he had given that to Mr Miggins.
8. At the completion of race 10 Dr Bryant approached me in the kennel area and asked me to step into the vets room, where he showed me a Blue haired, approximately 9cm long piece of dogs tail with a number of sinews, nerves and tendons sticking out from the end. They appeared to be wrapped around the tail tightly with an amount of sand on them. I unwound the sinews and nerves, The sinew or nerve appeared to be approximately 30cm long. The flesh and bone protruding from the end appeared red and was warm to the touch. From my experience in attending Crime scenes for over 16 years as a NSW Police Officer I formed the opinion that the piece of tail was extremely fresh and literally had only recently been severed. The sinews and nerves were still moist and remained extended when laid down, they didn’t recoil or shrivel to indicate that the moisture / fluids had evaporated or dried out at this time.
9. I had a further conversation with Dr Bryant who indicated that Robert Vines one of the Richmond Club employees designated as the official starter for the meeting had found the tail just near the 400m boxes and had handed the tail to Dr Bryant.

Nagy



10. I further formed on closer inspection that the tail piece appeared very similar in size, colour and length to the end of tail section of Greyhound Wilby Mighty that had presented within the vet room earlier that night.
  
11. I then took a number of photographs of the severed tail and I made a number of phone calls to Mr Ivan Akmacic. I then placed the tail section into a new unused clean rubber glove and took possession of the tail. I transported the tail to my home where at about 8.14pm I took a number of photographs with a ruler to indicate the size of the tail for evidentiary purposes. I noticed at this time that the sinew and nerve was drying out and would not remain rigid, it wanted to shrivel, I then placed the severed tail into a new unused clear plastic bag and placed the tail in a freezer, to be preserved for further analysis.

*Nam J*  
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SIGNED  
17.12.14

*Robert*  
.....  
WITNESS  
17.12.14

**STATEMENT FROM DR GREG BRYANT – RE TAIL INJURY RICHMOND**

Following Race 3 at Richmond's Greyhound Racing NSW meeting on 17th December 2014, it was observed that Wilby Mighty (the number 3 in the race) had injured its tail. Replays of the race suggested that this injury had occurred after the tail struck the running rail.

On examination there was a laceration exposing the bones and a fracture in the distal quarter of the tail. The wound was cleaned with Betadine solution and local anaesthetic solution (Lignocaine) was used before applying a gauze dressing and bandaging and straightening the tail. For pain relief 0.8ml of Domitor was injected intramuscularly and an antibiotic given (6mls of Linco Spectin).

The trainer was referred for further veterinary treatment which would involve amputating the tail. It was explained that current standards for treatment of this injury required sterile surgical equipment and anaesthetic equipment. It was also explained that the facilities available at Richmond were not available to do the amputation and that the appropriate first aid treatment and pain management had been provided.

The trainer was concerned about the costs and asked whether Greyhound Racing NSW would pay for the treatment. Just before placing the greyhound on the floor of the treatment room, the trainer had accidentally or otherwise grabbed the dog's tail and it had yelped in pain. It surprised me how or why this had occurred given the obvious need for care with the injury.

While I was treating the dog Norm Becroft, who was the Steward, gave directions to the trainer to get further veterinary treatment as soon as possible. The trainer complained that he was very busy over the coming days, saying that it would be difficult to get to a veterinary clinic. The Steward and I made it clear to the trainer that Wilby Mighty required further treatment and that he needed to obtain this treatment.

Prior to Race 7 I handed the trainer (who was in the pre race emptying yard) an envelope with the Quaker Hill Veterinary Clinic phone number and address written on it.

After race 9 one of the track staff, BJ, told me that there was a dog's tail lying on the track near the 400 metre boxes. At this time I was suturing a wound on Miss Blockbuster's face following Race 7. Since I couldn't go in person I requested BJ to collect the tail in some plastic which he did.

The section of tail he had collected was consistent in size and appearance with the distal section of injured tail from Wilby Mighty. The tail did not look to have been surgically removed but appeared more to have been pulled off due to the many long strands of tendons/ ligaments/ nerves that unevenly protruded from the section of removed tail. Some of the tendon strands were up to 30 cm long. I can only imagine that the removal of the tail segment would have been very painful to the dog.

Regards,  
Greg Bryant

