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Mardi Gras Casino worker disciplined for alleged greyhound abuse

by **Staff reports**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The State Racing Commission revoked the license of a Mardi Gras Casino dog track worker for alleged greyhound abuse earlier this fall.

This is the fourth license the commission has revoked or suspended this year for greyhound neglect or cruelty.

Cory Fisher admitted to pulling a greyhound down by the collar and pushing its head in a rough manner on Oct. 23, according to ruling issued by the State Racing Commission. Surveillance cameras allegedly caught Fisher abusing the dog in the paddock area of the racetrack. Fisher told the commission that he was having a bad day, according to the ruling. The ruling was publicized by Grey2k USA, a nonprofit dedicated to ending dog racing.

The organization released a study on greyhound racing injuries in September, finding that 4,700 greyhounds were injured at the state's two dog-racing tracks within the past five years. More than 1,400 of those injuries were catastrophic, career-ending injuries, according to the study.

In March, the commission suspended the licenses of two dog track workers at Wheeling Island Casino for allegedly delaying the veterinarian treatment for a greyhound with a broken leg. In April, an assistant dog track worker at the Wheeling Casino had his license revoked for allegedly hitting two dogs.

The State Racing Commission adopted a policy on cruelty toward greyhounds or thoroughbred horses in August. The policy outlines that the commission has the power to punish trainers, breeders and owners involved in acts of cruelty. The policy says the commission will report any instances of animal cruelty, mistreatment, neglect, abuse or abandonment to local law enforcement.