

GREYHOUND RACING REGULATION 2019 (PROPOSED REGULATION)
SUBMISSION BY
THE COALITION FOR THE PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS

Introduction

The proposed Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019 (Proposed Regulation) is made to provide updated legislative support and administrative detail for the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 (the Act). Interested organisations and individuals have been invited to provide a submission on any matter relevant to the Proposed Regulation. The following submission is made by the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds (CPG).

Concern

Clause 8 of the Proposed Regulation specifies when a greyhound is to be registered. The CPG is concerned that the Proposed Regulation contains no provision for the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) to track and monitor the welfare of a greyhound throughout its entire lifecycle once it has been transferred from the racing register to the companion animal register.

The Proposed Regulation enables industry participants to ‘retire’ greyhounds no longer required by the industry and register the greyhound as a companion animal. Once registered as a companion animal the Proposed Regulation will enable the owner of the newly registered companion greyhound to euthanise the greyhound.

While it is generally understood that the GWIC will track and monitor greyhounds on the greyhound racing register the CPG seeks a Regulation that specifies that the GWIC must also track and monitor greyhounds registered as a companion animal under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

The CPG believes that this lack of tracking and monitoring of greyhounds registered as companion animals is not in the best interest of greyhound welfare. It is also noteworthy that this is contrary to Recommendations 73 and 79 of the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel, both of which were accepted by the Government.

Greyhound Industry Reform Panel

The Greyhound Industry Reform Panel made the following recommendations:

Recommendation 73. A new greyhound racing register should be established and managed by the integrity commission to capture the identity and whereabouts of all greyhounds **through their lifecycle**. (Bolding by CPG).

Recommendation 79. Owners of greyhounds should be principally responsible for the welfare of their greyhounds for **their full natural life** including ensuring their suitability to be rehomed at any stage of their lives. (Bolding by CPG).

The Reform Panel stated:

“McHugh found that whole of lifecycle registration was important for permanent identification, tracking change of ownership and overall lifetime care. He concluded that the lack of transparency had been an unfortunate feature of the industry and that there was a lack of certainty about requirements for greyhounds no longer registered to race.

We recommend the integrity commission be required to administer a registration scheme covering all greyhounds in the industry for their entire lifecycle. The proposed new racing register, together with the new licencing scheme, will enable increased oversight by the new integrity commission and improve the data available about euthanasia rates, bred to race ratios and transfers interstate which will help inform future improvements to animal welfare.

The new registration scheme will be updated by breeders when greyhounds are microchipped at 12 weeks, and registered owners for all other stages of a greyhound’s life, including when it is reared, educated, trained, retires from racing or when it is deceased.”

The CPG Position

The CPG supports recommendations 73 and 79 of the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel. These recommendations support the position that the GWIC track greyhounds for their entire lifecycle. The Proposed Regulations do not provide for this and are therefore contrary to the recommendations of the Reform Panel and the Government acceptance of the Reform Panel’s recommendations.

The CPG seeks a Regulation that specifies that GWIC will track and monitor greyhounds on the companion animals register.

Compliance with the Act

The CPG amendment is in compliance with Clauses 42 and 48 of the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 which state:

42 Greyhounds generally

(1) A greyhound racing industry participant must not own, breed or keep a greyhound (whether or not the greyhound is owned, bred or kept in connection with greyhound racing) unless the greyhound is registered from the time the greyhound is 12 weeks old or such later time as may be prescribed by the regulations.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units.

Note. A greyhound registered under this Act is not required to be registered under the Companion Animals Act 1998. At present, the age at which any companion animal (which includes a greyhound) is required to be registered under that Act is 12 weeks.

(2) The owner of a registered greyhound must comply with any conditions to which the registration of the greyhound is subject.

Maximum penalty: 1,000 penalty units in the case of a corporation and 200 penalty units in the case of an individual.

48 Registration of greyhounds

- (1) The Commission may, in accordance with the regulations, register a greyhound.
- (2) The Commission may refuse to register a greyhound if it is of the opinion that it would be in the best interests of the greyhound racing industry to do so.
- (3) The Commission may, on the registration of a greyhound or at any later time, impose conditions on the registration. Any such condition may be varied or revoked by the Commission.

CPG Proposed Amendment

The CPG seeks a Regulation to be included in the Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019 that:

- (a) requires GWIC to track and monitor greyhounds on the companion animals register.
- (b) gives GWIC the powers to track and monitor greyhounds on the companion animals register.

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