



# **Draft NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice**

**January 2020**

# Table of Contents

<b>Part 1: Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 2: Nutrition and Hydration</b>	<b>7</b>
OBJECTIVE	7
STANDARDS	7
<b>Part 3: Health and Wellbeing</b>	<b>8</b>
OBJECTIVE	8
STANDARDS	8
<b>Part 4: Greyhound Breeding</b>	<b>12</b>
OBJECTIVE	12
STANDARDS	12
<b>Part 5: Housing and Environment</b>	<b>14</b>
OBJECTIVE	14
STANDARDS	14
<b>Part 6: Transporting Greyhounds</b>	<b>18</b>
OBJECTIVE	18
STANDARDS	18
<b>Part 7: Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment</b>	<b>19</b>
OBJECTIVE	19
STANDARDS	19
<b>Part 8: Training, trialling and racing</b>	<b>22</b>
OBJECTIVE	22
STANDARDS	22
<b>Part 9: Retirement and Preparation for Rehoming</b>	<b>24</b>
OBJECTIVE	24
STANDARDS	24
<b>10: Definitions</b>	<b>27</b>

# Part 1: Introduction

## Name of the Code

This Code is to be known as the ***NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice***.

## Objectives of the Code

The objectives of this Code are to protect the welfare and promote the wellbeing of greyhounds kept by greyhound racing industry participants in NSW.

## Purpose of the Code

This Code is made under sections 35 and 36 of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* (“the Act”), which state:

### **35 Commission to prepare code of practice**

- (1) The Commission is to prepare, for submission to the Minister, a code of practice relating to the welfare of greyhounds.
- (2) The code of practice must (without limitation) deal with the following:
  - (a) standards for the keeping, treatment, handling and care of greyhounds,
  - (b) standards for the facilities, equipment and conditions at premises where greyhounds are kept, trialed, trained or raced,
  - (c) standards for the procedures and practices to be adopted in relation to the keeping, trialling, training and racing of greyhounds.
- (3) Those standards are to promote the welfare of greyhounds and be consistent with the objects of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

### **36 Making of code of practice**

- (1) The Minister may, by order published on the NSW legislation website, make the code of practice that has been submitted by the Commission. The order is to set out the code of practice.
- (2) The code of practice takes effect on the day on which the order is published or, if a later date is specified in the order for commencement, on the later date so specified.
- (3) The Minister may, by order published on the NSW legislation website, amend or repeal the code of practice. An amendment to the code may only be made if it has been submitted by the Commission.
- (4) An order by the Minister under this section may only be made with the concurrence of the Minister for Primary Industries.

Other standards which relate to greyhound racing operations are stipulated in the Greyhound Racing Rules. This Code is to be read in conjunction with those Rules. Section

38 of the Act provides that in the event of any inconsistency between this Code and the Greyhound Racing Rules, this Code prevails.

The standards in this Code are intended to promote the welfare of greyhounds. The standards in this Code are consistent with the objects of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA).

The standards in this Code have also been developed with reference to the five domains of animal welfare, which provide a recognised framework for assessing an animal's wellbeing.

### **Application of the Code**

This Code applies to all greyhounds and greyhound racing industry participants required to be registered in NSW.

Section 3 of the Act defines the following terms:

*'greyhound'* means a greyhound that is owned or kept in connection with greyhound racing.

*'greyhound racing industry participant'* means any of the following persons, whether or not the person is employed or engaged on a full-time basis and whether or not the person receives payment or other consideration for the activity concerned:

- (a) a person who owns, breeds or keeps greyhounds;
- (b) a person who trains greyhounds;
- (c) a person who handles greyhounds at a greyhound race or trial;
- (d) a person who acts as a bookmaker or bookmaker's clerk in connection with greyhound racing;
- (e) a person who provides such health services to greyhounds as are prescribed by the regulations;
- (f) any other person who is of a class of persons associated with greyhound racing that is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

This Code applies to all participants and greyhounds kept by them, regardless of whether or not the greyhound is being kept for the purpose of racing. This includes greyhounds that are retained by participants as a breeding dog or pet.

The Code does not apply to greyhounds kept by people who are not participants. For example, if a registered greyhound is retired and rehomed with a new owner who is not a greyhound racing industry participant, it does not need to be registered with the Commission. Such greyhounds are subject to the requirements of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, unless exempt from the provisions of that legislation.

Each Part of the Code is structured to provide:

- an objective specifying the intended greyhound welfare outcomes the Part seeks to achieve, and a
- a series of enforceable standards, to provide certainty for participants and the Commission in regulating greyhound welfare.

In addition to the Standards, some advisory information is also provided. This information is for guidance and being of an advisory nature, participants are not required to comply with such information.

### **Commencement of the Code**

This Code will commence on a date to be determined by the Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation.

Participants may delay compliance with Standard 5.8 of this Code, as far as it relates to construction:

- for up to ten years from the date that this Code comes into effect; or
- where any welfare or safety issues relating to non-compliant facilities are identified at the premises, until a date specified by the Commission.

This means that participants who are required to construct new kennels in order to comply with standard 5.8 of this Code have up to ten years to do so, unless welfare issues attributable to non-compliance with Standard 5.8 are identified at their premises.

The construction of any new kennelling facilities, following the commencement of this Code, will need to comply with Standard 5.8.

### **Enforcement of the Code**

Persons appointed as Inspectors under the Act will enforce the Standards contained in the Code on behalf of the Commission.

Inspectors employed by the Commission are also inspectors for the purposes of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA), and may exercise the powers of inspectors specified under Division 2 of POCTA.

### **Breaches of the Code**

In the event of a breach of the Code, participants may be directed to remedy the breach. Section 24N of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA) provides for inspectors to issue a notice in writing, requiring the person to take such action in relation to the animal as the inspector considers necessary to avoid any further contravention. Failure to comply with an Inspector's direction is an offence.

The Commission may take disciplinary action against a participant who is found to be in breach of a Standard or Standards in the Code, as provided for in section 58 of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*. Section 59 details the various forms of disciplinary action that the Commission may take, and includes action under the Rules of Racing such as imposing a fine or disqualification.

Section 96 of the Act also provides for the Commission to issue a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) for a breach or breaches of the Code.

The action that the Commission takes against a participant in response to a breach of a Standard or Standards in this Code will be determined in accordance with the Commission's

Compliance Policy, which provides for graded responses according to the nature and seriousness of the breach.

### **Offence provisions**

Section 39 of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* (NSW) provides for certain provisions of the Code to be identified as offence provisions

### **39 Offence to contravene certain provisions of code of practice**

A person who contravenes a provision of the code of practice that is identified in the code as an “offence provision” is guilty of an offence under this section.

Maximum penalty: 1,000 penalty units in the case of a corporation and 200 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, in the case of an individual.

**Note.** Failure to comply with other mandatory provisions of the code may lead to the taking of disciplinary action under this Act.

Section 39 provides an additional mechanism through which these Standards may be enforced, as the Commission may elect to issue a Penalty Infringement Notice or prosecute a person who contravenes one or more of the Standards identified as offence provisions.

Standards 9.6, 9.11, 9.12, 9.13 and 9.14 of this Code are identified as “offence provisions” for the purposes of section 39 of the Act.

### **Definitions**

Terms used in the Code are included in the Definitions section at the end of this document. Defined terms appear in bold when they first appear in the Standards.

## Part 2: Nutrition and Hydration

### OBJECTIVE

*To ensure that every greyhound receives the food and water needed to provide for optimal development, health and wellbeing.*

### STANDARDS

#### Food

- 2.1 Food provided to **puppies** and **greyhounds** must be nutritionally balanced and complete, and of sufficient quantity and quality to meet the daily requirements of the greyhound, taking into account its physical and dental health, condition, age, size and level of activity.
- 2.2 Food must not be allowed to become rancid, decayed or insect-infested. Uneaten food must be disposed of before a fresh meal is provided.
- 2.3 Food fed to greyhounds must not contain raw offal.

#### Cleaning and food storage

- 2.4 Food containers and food preparation areas must be kept clean and be **disinfected** regularly.
- 2.5 Food must be stored in such a way as to prevent spoilage or contamination.

#### Water

- 2.6 Fresh, clean drinking water must be available to greyhounds at all times, at a temperature that greyhounds will drink.
- 2.7 Puppies must be provided with access to clean drinking water of an appropriate temperature from three weeks of age.
- 2.8 Water containers must be cleaned regularly.
- 2.9 If water becomes contaminated with food, urine, faeces or vomit, the container must be removed, cleaned and replaced immediately.

#### Advisory information:

- From the time they are fully **weaned** to the age of 16 weeks, puppies should be fed at least three times a day to sustain growth and optimal physical health.
- Greyhounds aged between 16 weeks and six months should be fed at least twice a day to sustain growth and optimal physical health.
- Greyhounds over the age of six months should be fed at least once a day.
- Pregnant and lactating greyhounds require more food than normal and should be fed at least twice a day to maintain condition.

# Part 3: Health and Wellbeing

## OBJECTIVE

*To ensure that every greyhound enjoys optimal health and wellbeing.*

## STANDARDS

### Monitoring greyhound health

3.1 **Participants** must check greyhounds in their care at least twice a day.

### Veterinary care

3.2 Participants must have a relationship with a **veterinarian** (or veterinarians) capable of providing 24 hour veterinary advice in regard to all greyhounds in the participant's care.

3.3 Veterinary treatment must be obtained without delay if a greyhound or puppy is showing signs of pain, injury, ill health or distress.

3.4 Any directions of a veterinarian in relation to treatment of pain, injury, ill health, distress or post-surgical care must be followed.

### Sclerosing agents

3.5 **Sclerosing** agents must not be administered to greyhounds.

### Heritable diseases or defects

3.6 Where a greyhound is found to have a **heritable disease or defect**, the owner must:

- have the greyhound's parents and any other existing offspring of the parents tested for the heritable disease or defect or, if an accepted test is not available, assessed for the disease or defect by a veterinarian;
- in consultation with a veterinarian, prepare a treatment plan for any greyhound found to have a heritable disease or defect where the greyhound is to be retained by the owner, or
- prepare the greyhound for rehoming, if the intention is to rehome the greyhound.

### Storage, administration and treatment records

3.7 Participants must keep a complete health care and veterinary history for all greyhounds and puppies in their care that includes:

- vaccination records and matching vaccination certificates
- internal and external parasite control (e.g. fleas, ticks or heartworm)
- any injuries sustained or health issues identified
- administration of any oral supplements, injected substances or medications (by date, time, dose, route of administration, drug name and name of person giving the medication)

- any other treatment administered, including the person prescribing the treatment and the name and signature of the person administering the treatment
- 3.8 Any medications prescribed by a veterinarian for a greyhound must be administered in accordance with veterinary directions.
- 3.9 Medications, treatments, or supplements must be labelled clearly and kept in their original container or packaging.
- 3.10 Medications which have expired or which are no longer in use must be disposed of.

### Vaccinations

- 3.11 **Puppies** must not be vaccinated before four weeks of age.
- 3.12 Participants must ensure that all greyhounds in their care are vaccinated from the age of 6-8 weeks, and that vaccinations are kept up to date.
- 3.13 Unless a veterinarian has provided contrary advice in writing, greyhounds must be vaccinated against:
- Distemper virus
  - Parvovirus
  - Canine Adenovirus
  - Parainfluenza virus
  - Bordetella bronchiseptica.

### Worming and parasite management

- 3.14 Participants must administer an effective internal and external parasite control program (e.g. gastrointestinal worm, heartworm, ear mites, fleas and ticks) which is age appropriate, to all greyhounds in their care.
- 3.15 Worming and parasite treatments must be used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### Dental health

- 3.16 Participants must **monitor** the dental health of all greyhounds in their care, and seek veterinary advice if the greyhound shows signs of dental disease.

### Grooming

- 3.17 Participants must ensure that the greyhounds in their care are maintained in a good and clean condition.
- 3.18 Participants must ensure that their greyhound's toenails are trimmed regularly.

### Stress and anxiety

- 3.19 Participants must provide greyhounds in their care with opportunities for expression of normal canine behaviours, to prevent stress and anxiety.
- 3.20 If a greyhound shows signs of stress, anxiety or stereotypies which do not resolve quickly, participants remove the trigger or cause, or seek veterinary advice.

### Advisory information:

- Failure to provide veterinary treatment to an animal when necessary is an offence under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.
- Participants should monitor their greyhounds to check if they are eating and drinking normally, able to defecate and urinate normally, able to move about freely and without pain, and their skin and coat are in a normal condition.
- The following symptoms indicate that a greyhound may be ill:
  - sneezing or abnormal coughing
  - abnormal, rapid or laboured breathing
  - vomiting, diarrhoea or difficulties with urination
  - lameness or inability to stand or walk
  - bleeding or swelling of body parts
  - weight loss or lack of appetite
  - dehydration
  - apparent pain, fits or staggering
  - wounds, irritations or inflammations
  - signs of poor dental health
  - significant or unusual hair loss
  - repeated scratching or shaking of the head.
- Participants should be aware of the current requirements of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for administration and storage of veterinary treatments.
- The following behaviours, where excessive or repeated, may indicate that a greyhound is stressed or anxious:
  - cowering/shaking/shivering/trembling
  - tucked tail
  - ears back
  - avoidance/withdrawal/inhibition
  - disengaging/loss of focus
  - freezing in response to stimulus
  - aggression
  - hypervigilance
  - muscle tension
  - excessive panting
  - yawning
  - teeth chattering
  - lip smacking
  - lip licking
  - cheek puffing
  - unresponsive dilated pupil

- pacing
- salivation.
- Stress and anxiety are key causes of stereotypic behaviours in greyhounds and early intervention is necessary to prevent their development. Examples of stereotypic behaviour include:
  - repetitive behaviour such as excessive licking (of environment, self, other greyhounds)
  - pacing/circling/spinning (worn pads)
  - destructive behaviour such as chewing wire, beds or bowls
  - persistent barking or howling.
- Participants should maintain good dental hygiene in their greyhounds. This can be achieved by routine teeth brushing, feeding of bones or dental treats, and use of chew toys.

# Part 4: Greyhound Breeding

## OBJECTIVE

*To ensure that greyhounds are bred in a safe and responsible manner, resulting in healthy greyhounds and puppies.*

## STANDARDS

### Suitability for breeding

- 4.1 Participants must obtain from a veterinarian a written certification that a greyhound is suitable to breed before the greyhound may be registered for breeding.
- 4.2 A greyhound must not be bred from if it has been diagnosed by a veterinarian as having a heritable disease or defect, or there is a reason to believe that the greyhound has a heritable disease or defect.
- 4.3 Participants must not arrange matings of greyhounds that will result in first-degree crosses such as father-daughter, mother-son, or brother-sister, or second degree crosses such as grandfather-granddaughter.
- 4.4 Neither male nor female greyhounds are to be registered for breeding before they are at least 18 months of age.
- 4.5 A female greyhound must have no more than two **litters** in any two year period, unless with written veterinary advice, and approval has been obtained from the Commission.

### Natural mating

- 4.6 Natural **mating** pairs must be physically separated from other greyhounds.
- 4.7 If the female greyhound is being unduly harassed by the male greyhound, they must be separated immediately.
- 4.8 A male greyhound must not be put with more than one female at any one time for the purpose of natural mating.
- 4.9 After mating, both greyhounds must be physically separated, assessed for signs of injury, and treatment provided if necessary.
- 4.10 Dog breeding stands must not be used in mating.

### Artificial insemination

- 4.11 **Artificial insemination** must only be conducted by a veterinarian or an artificial insemination technician.
- 4.12 **Surgical artificial insemination** can only be performed by a veterinarian using general anaesthetic, with appropriate pain relief during and post-surgery.

### Whelping

- 4.13 A pregnant greyhound must be moved to a **whelping box** at least three days prior to her estimated **whelping** date. The whelping box must be clean, safe, quiet, and separated from other greyhounds.

4.14 After whelping is complete, the **dam** and her puppies must be closely monitored to ensure the puppies are feeding normally and maternal acceptance has been firmly established.

4.15 The whelping area must be cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours of the completion of whelping.

#### Lactating

4.16 Dams must be examined twice a day for mastitis during the first two weeks post-whelp, and veterinary advice sought where mastitis is present.

4.17 Participants must seek veterinary advice in relation to any puppies which are not feeding properly, or do not gain weight.

#### Puppies

4.18 Gentle daily **handling** of puppies must be provided within seven days of whelping.

4.19 Puppies must not be re-homed before eight weeks of age, unless directed by a veterinarian.

#### Advisory information:

- Where practicable, the dam and puppies should be checked by a veterinarian within three days after whelping.

# Part 5: Housing and Environment

## OBJECTIVE

*To ensure that every greyhound is provided with housing that provides adequate space, shelter and comfort, having regard to the greyhound's age, size, and behavioural needs.*

## STANDARDS

### Construction of housing pens, kennels and yards

- 5.1 Greyhound **enclosures** and perimeter fencing must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way to prevent injury or distress to greyhounds, and to prevent their escape.
- 5.2 All perimeter fences must be a minimum of 1.2m high, and must have a secure gate.
- 5.3 Any security measures installed in or around greyhound enclosures must not prevent easy access to greyhounds, or efficient removal of greyhounds in the event of an emergency.
- 5.4 Vehicles, caravans, portable crates and the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used as long-term housing for greyhounds.

### Indoor housing

- 5.5 All indoor greyhound housing areas must have adequate ventilation.
- 5.6 Where greyhounds are housed indoors and forced ventilation is the only form of air movement:
  - temperature must be maintained at between 16°C and 26°C;
  - effective air cleaning and filtration must be in place; and
  - a power back-up and effective alarm system must be installed and available for use in the event of power failures or breakdown.
- 5.7 Where greyhounds are housed indoors, light cycles must be as close as possible to natural conditions.

### Greyhound housing area space requirements

- 5.8 Greyhounds must be housed in greyhound housing areas that meet the minimum size requirements outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Minimum space requirements for greyhound housing areas**

<b>Minimum requirements for one greyhound</b>			
<b>Enclosure type</b>	<b>Minimum width</b>	<b>Minimum height</b>	<b>Total area</b>
<b>Pen (includes kennel)</b>	<b>1.2 metres</b>	<b>1.8 metres</b>	<b>3.0 m<sup>2</sup> *</b>
<b>Pen (includes kennel) for greyhound registered for breeding</b>	<b>1.2 metres</b>	<b>1.8 metres</b>	<b>3.5m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Minimum requirements for two greyhounds</b>			
<b>Pen (includes kennel)</b>	<b>2.4 metres</b>	<b>1.8 metres</b>	<b>6m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Mating Greyhounds Pen</b>	<b>3 metres</b>	<b>1.8 metres</b>	<b>15m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Minimum requirements for whelping greyhounds</b>			
<b>Whelping Greyhounds Pen (includes kennel)</b>			<b>15m<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Whelping greyhounds housing pen (includes kennel)</b>	One dam and her litter of pups aged over 8 weeks require an additional 15m <sup>2</sup> of space.		<b>30m<sup>2</sup></b>

\*This is consistent with Victoria, Western Australia and ACT

## Housing and Environment

5.9 Greyhounds must at all times be kept in greyhound housing areas that provide adequate protection against extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, humidity, dampness, persistent loud noises, light pollution, noxious odours and draughts.

### Sleeping areas

- 5.10 Areas where greyhounds sleep must:
- a) be divided by a solid partition;
  - b) include a raised **bed** or wooden pallet, which is large enough for the greyhound to lay down completely stretched out on;
  - c) be provided with **bedding** that is warm, soft and dry; and made of materials that are safe for greyhounds and puppies.

### Tethering

5.11 Participants must regularly monitor any greyhounds that are **tethered**.

5.12 Greyhounds must not be tethered for more than two hours per day.

### Housing greyhounds for breeding and whelping

- 5.13 No female greyhound which is near or in season is to be housed with a male greyhound six months of age or older that has not been desexed.
- 5.14 **Whelping boxes** must be large enough for the dam to lie comfortably while whelping and to accommodate the dam and her puppies for the first four weeks after whelping.
- 5.15 Whelping boxes must have sides that are high enough to allow the dam to exit readily but also prevent puppies under four weeks from falling out.
- 5.16 **Whelping greyhound pens** must contain a fully screened bedding area to allow the dam physical separation from other greyhounds, and provide the dam with access to an area where her puppies cannot reach her.
- 5.17 Puppies from a litter must not be housed together unless they are all compatible.

### Cleanliness and hygiene

- 5.18 Greyhound housing areas and bedding must be maintained in a clean, hygienic and safe condition at all times.
- 5.19 Pens and kennels must be disinfected using an effective disinfectant no less than four times per year, as well as:
- after an outbreak of an infectious disease
  - prior to introduction of a new greyhound
  - prior to whelping
  - upon the removal of puppies.
- 5.20 Greyhounds must be removed prior to hosing of greyhound housing areas, and must not be returned until cleaning is complete and the area is dry.

### Preventing transmission of disease

- 5.21 All premises where more than one greyhound is kept must include an **isolation housing** area for greyhounds suspected of having an infectious disease. Isolation housing may be provided off-site at a veterinary practice under a written agreement with that practice.
- 5.22 Isolation housing must be physically separated by an **impervious** barrier from other greyhound housing areas.
- 5.23 **Biosecurity procedures** must be put into place to prevent the spread of disease from isolation areas to other parts of the premises.
- 5.24 Visitors to all greyhound housing areas must be provided with access to hot and cold water hand washing facilities with soap or hand sanitising stations.
- 5.25 If a greyhound is diagnosed or suspected of having an infectious disease, it must be moved immediately to isolation housing.

### Pest control

- 5.26 Pests (including fleas, ticks, flies, mosquitoes, spiders and rodents) must be controlled effectively in all greyhound housing areas to prevent health of greyhounds being affected.
- 5.27 Pest control chemicals must be kept in their original container and used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 5.28 Greyhounds must be removed from any areas where and while pest control chemicals are being used.

### Emergency evacuation procedures

- 5.29 Participants must have an effective evacuation plan to ensure that greyhounds can be removed safely in the event of an emergency.
- 5.30 Emergency evacuation procedures must be prominently displayed in or near all greyhound housing areas.
- 5.31 All greyhound housing areas must have functioning and visible fire extinguishers or other adequate fire protection.

#### **Advisory information:**

Participants may delay compliance with Standard 5.8 of this Code, as far as it relates to construction:

- for up to ten years from the date that this Code comes into effect; or
- where any welfare or safety issues relating to non-compliance facilities are identified at the premises, until a date specified by the Commission.

This means that participants who are required to construct new kennels in order to comply with standard 5.8 of this Code have up to ten years to do so, unless welfare issues attributable to non-compliance with Standard 5.8 are identified at their premises.

The construction of any new kennelling facilities, following commencement of this Code, must comply with Standard 5.8.

# Part 6: Transporting Greyhounds

## OBJECTIVE

*To ensure that greyhounds are transported in a safe and secure manner that provides for their wellbeing.*

## STANDARDS

- 6.1 Participants must not transport any greyhound in a manner likely to cause injury or undue stress to the greyhound.
- 6.2 **Compartments** and **cages**, when used for transporting greyhounds must be **weatherproof**, have adequate ventilation and be maintained at a comfortable temperature and level of humidity for greyhounds.
- 6.3 When using compartments or cages for transporting greyhounds, participants must:
- provide enough space for the greyhound to sit, lie down and stand in a natural position;
  - where two or more greyhounds are transported in the same compartment or cage, individually restrain greyhounds during transport;
  - fix compartments/cages securely to the transport vehicle;
  - keep compartments/cages clean; and
  - disinfect compartments/cages at least four times each year, or as otherwise necessary to maintain good hygiene.
- 6.4 When being transported, greyhounds must be removed from transport compartments/cages at least every two hours and offered an opportunity to drink, **exercise** and toilet.
- 6.5 Transport compartments may only be used for short-term housing whilst at race meetings or trials.

### Advisory information:

- The temperature in transport compartments or cages should be no higher than 26°C. If the temperature is lower than 16°C, greyhounds should be provided with adequate protection against the cold.

## Part 7: Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment

### OBJECTIVE

*To ensure that every greyhound is provided with adequate exercise, **socialisation** and enrichment to provide for its wellbeing.*

### STANDARDS

- 7.1 All puppies and greyhounds must be provided with daily contact with humans through gentle handling.
- 7.2 All puppies and greyhounds older than 8 weeks of age must be provided with regular contact with, and exposure to, other vaccinated dogs that are compatible.

#### Puppies aged 0–8 weeks

- 7.3 Each day, puppies aged 0–8 weeks must be:
- a) provided with access to normal puppy activity and play with its mother and littermates;
  - b) exposed to a variety of **surfaces**; and,
  - c) provided with a variety of toys.

#### Puppies aged 8–16 weeks

- 7.4 Puppies aged 8–16 weeks must be provided with:
- a) a minimum of one hour per day to run or play within a secure area outside of the greyhound housing area, and
  - b) access to toys for interactive play.
- 7.5 During each week, puppies aged 8–16 weeks must be provided with three or more of the following:
- a) lessons in how to walk on a lead whilst wearing a collar;
  - b) chasing games for play;
  - c) training to respond to basic verbal commands;
  - d) exposure to a variety of surfaces;
  - e) exposure to novel experiences (see advisory information);
  - f) a variety of toys;
  - g) travel in cars or trailers;
  - h) exposure to different levels (such as walking up and down stairs);
  - i) access to **training facilities** such as **slipping** or **galloping runs**.
- 7.6 Puppies aged 8–16 weeks must be housed in groups or pairs, unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian.

#### Greyhounds older than 16 weeks which have not yet commenced training

- 7.7 Greyhounds older than 16 weeks which have not yet commenced training for racing must be given:

- a) access to a secure area outside of the greyhound housing area for play, for a minimum of five hours each day;
- b) interactive play or obedience training each day; and,
- c) each week, two or more of the following:
  - reward-based training;
  - walking on a lead;
  - travel in cars or trailers;
  - racing-related activities (such as access to starting boxes, circular training facilities, straight tracks, lures or race-day cages).

### Pregnant or lactating greyhounds

7.8 Pregnant or lactating greyhounds must be:

- a) provided with access to an exercise yard or walked on a lead for at least 30 minutes each day,
- b) access to toys at all times.

### Spelling, breeding and retired greyhounds

7.9 All greyhounds which are being **spelled**, bred or which are **retired** must be provided with the following activities for a minimum of 60 minutes each day:

- gentle exercise in an area containing natural daylight, either through walking on a lead or access to an **exercise yard**;
- access to toys.

### Exercise, socialisation and enrichment plan

7.10 Participants must have a written plan detailing how the Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment standards in this Code will be met for each greyhound in their care.

### Muzzling

7.11 Any muzzle used on a greyhound must be the correct size and properly fitted, and must not cause pain, injury or distress to the greyhound.

7.12 Barking muzzles must not be used. Any muzzle used on a greyhound must not restrict normal behaviour such as panting or drinking.

7.13 Greyhounds must not be muzzled for more than 30 minutes at a time unless:

- a) being walked in a public place;
- b) travelling;
- c) in race day kennels;
- d) the greyhound is subject to a dangerous dog order made under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*; or
- e) under written direction by a veterinarian; or the **Commission**.

7.14 Greyhounds under the age of nine months must not be muzzled at any time, except:

- a) as part of the education process and then only whilst in the presence of the participant, or
- b) at the written direction of a veterinarian.

7.15 Greyhounds must not be muzzled for more than two hours a day, unless at the written direction of a veterinarian.

- 7.16 Any veterinary direction about muzzling that extends for longer than 12 months must be reviewed by the veterinarian at least annually.

**Advisory information:**

- Toys can include: rope toys, squawkers, rubber toys, chew/food toys, or bones; and should be safe and appropriate for greyhounds.
- Novel experiences could include: introduction to new people, and people of different ages, sounds which they may encounter in a normal home, food bowl exercises, places and experiences outside of the home environment.
- Participants who keep more than one greyhound may have a single plan for all of the greyhounds in their care, provided that it meets the needs of all greyhounds.
- An Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment plan may be varied or suspended under the written advice of a veterinarian, having regard to an individual greyhound's circumstances.
- Participants are encouraged to check the Commission's website for templates and materials around exercise, socialisation and enrichment plans. Contact details for the Commission are also available on the website.

## Part 8: Training, trialling and racing

### OBJECTIVE

*To ensure that the welfare of greyhounds is protected in greyhound training, trialling and racing.*

### STANDARDS

#### Training and trialling facilities

- 8.1 All training facilities, trial tracks and equipment used in the training, trialling and racing of greyhounds must be appropriately constructed, maintained, and fit for purpose, and supervised at all times when being used.

#### Training methods

- 8.2 Training of greyhounds must be based on positive reinforcement and the use of reward-based methods.
- 8.3 Food rewards must not be attached to, or make up any part of, a lure used to entice greyhounds to chase.
- 8.4 Teaching, training, and all other interactions with greyhounds, must be kind, humane and gentle.
- 8.5 **Aversive devices or substances** must not be used in the training of greyhounds, except where prescribed by a veterinarian.

#### Walking machines

- 8.6 A walking machine must only be used where:
- it is used in conjunction with other forms of exercise.
  - it is being supervised during use;
  - the greyhound has been behaviourally conditioned to willingly use a walking machine; and
  - the greyhound shows no signs of reluctance, fear or distress while using a walking machine.

#### Greyhound trialling and racing

- 8.7 Greyhounds shall only participate in trials or races that are conducted at a registered **trial track** or licensed race course.
- 8.8 No greyhound under the age of 16 months shall be nominated for a race or trial.
- 8.9 A greyhound that is presented for a trial or race must be fit and in proper condition to trial or race.
- 8.10 Greyhounds must be presented for examination by an **On Track Veterinarian** prior to starting in a race.
- 8.11 A greyhound must not participate in a race or trial on consecutive days.
- 8.12 A female greyhound must not participate in or attend a race or trial if she is or is suspected of being pregnant or in season.

- 8.13 A greyhound which has whelped a litter must not participate in a race or trial until at least ten weeks after the date of whelping.
- 8.14 A greyhound which has mated or had semen drawn must not participate in a trial or race until at least two days after the mating or drawing of semen.
- 8.15 Any injury suffered by a greyhound during a trial must be reported by the participant to the attending steward, if the trial is conducted at a licensed race track. If the trial is conducted at a registered trial track, the injury must be reported to the trial track proprietor.
- 8.16 Any injury suffered by a greyhound during a race must be reported by the participant to the attending steward and On Track Veterinarian.
- 8.17 Participants must follow any directions given by an On Track Veterinarian in relation to any greyhound in their care or custody.

**Racing and trialling in hot weather**

- 8.18 Greyhounds must not participate in a race or trial if the ambient temperature at the race or trial track exceeds 38°C.
- 8.19 The temperature in kennels at race tracks and trial tracks must not exceed 26°C.

# Part 9: Retirement and Preparation for Rehoming

## OBJECTIVE

*To optimise rehoming outcomes for greyhounds that are retired or otherwise unsuitable for racing.*

## STANDARDS

### Retirement and preparation of greyhounds for rehoming

9.1 Where a greyhound **owner** does not wish to retain a greyhound, the owner must ensure that the greyhound is adequately prepared for rehoming as a companion animal.

### Preparing greyhounds for rehoming

9.2 A greyhound that has ceased racing or training for racing must be provided with a **'wind down'** period of at least 30 days before being rehomed. During this wind down period, the owner must ensure that:

- the greyhound's diet is adjusted to suit new levels of exercise;
- the greyhound's exercise is adjusted to levels appropriate for a companion animal;
- the greyhound is moved to different housing, either in an outdoor pen or to within a family residence;
- the greyhound is walked for at least 20 minutes daily in public, while muzzled and on a lead;
- the greyhound is exposed to new environments such as dog parks/shopping areas and interaction with other dogs (not greyhounds);
- the greyhound is exposed to different surfaces and a variety of people in a non-training or racing setting;
- the greyhound is exposed to daily periods of isolation from other dogs and humans, starting with 30 minutes and gradually increasing to three to four hours in duration.

9.3 Participants must monitor greyhounds whilst being introduced to new environments, people or animals. If the greyhound shows signs of fear or predatory or aggressive behaviour the interaction must be terminated.

9.4 Participants must seek advice from a veterinarian or animal behaviourist if the greyhound being prepared for rehoming shows excessive fear, aggressive or predatory behaviours towards people, small dogs and/or other animals.

### Requirements for rehoming of greyhounds

9.5 Greyhounds must be desexed prior to rehoming as a companion animal.

9.6 A greyhound owner must make genuine attempts to rehome any greyhound that they do not wish to retain. If an owner is unable to rehome the greyhound privately, they must first seek the greyhound's admission to the Greyhounds As

Pets (GAP) program. If the greyhound is not admitted to the GAP program, the owner must then:

- seek to rehome the greyhound through at least one other pet rescue or rehoming organisation; or
- seek the greyhound's admission to the GAP program a second time.

9.7 Participants rehoming a greyhound as a companion animal must provide the new owner with all relevant information on the greyhound's:

- housing;
- feeding;
- exercise regime;
- health;
- behaviour; and,
- preparation for rehoming.

9.8 Participants rehoming a greyhound as a companion animal must provide the new owner with a written statement detailing the following:

- any known abnormality (including current or past injury) affecting the greyhound;
- any available information about how that abnormality may affect the short and long term health and well-being of the greyhound;
- any veterinary treatment the greyhound is receiving or requires; and,
- current vaccination certificates relating to the greyhound.

9.9 The owner of a greyhound being rehomed must advise the greyhound's new owner of their obligation to register the greyhound in accordance with the requirements of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, and direct the new owner to the NSW Pet Registry for that purpose.

9.10 Participants must not transfer a greyhound to a person who is under the age of 18 years.

9.11 A greyhound owner must not **transfer** a greyhound in circumstances where the owner knows or has reason to believe that the greyhound may be **euthanased**.

### Euthanasia

9.12 A greyhound may be euthanased where a veterinarian certifies that the greyhound is suffering from an intractable condition or injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life, such that it is inhumane or would otherwise compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia.

9.13 Where a greyhound is not suffering from an intractable condition or injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life, the owner must meet minimum rehoming standards as detailed in 9.6 before considering euthanasia. If the owner has complied with the minimum rehoming

standards, has been unable to rehome the greyhound and intends to have it euthanased, they must notify the Commission of this intention at least 10 business days before the greyhound is euthanased.

9.14 Euthanasia of a greyhound must only be performed using humane methods. Euthanasia of a greyhound may be performed by a person who is not a veterinarian only where the euthanasia is:

- necessary to relieve the animal's immediate suffering, and
- a veterinarian is unable to attend in a timely manner, or transporting the animal to a veterinarian would unreasonably prolong the animal's suffering; and,
- a veterinarian has been consulted.

**Advisory information:**

- Fear or predatory or aggressive behaviour can include: barking, lunging, growling, snapping, stalking, shaking, cowering and freezing.

## 10: Definitions

**Greyhound:** means a greyhound aged over 16 weeks.

**Advisory information:** means guidance information provided in this Code, supplementing the Standards.

**Artificial insemination:** means insemination of a dam by any means other than natural mating.

**Artificial insemination technician:** means a person registered as an artificial insemination technician under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*.

**Aversive substances or devices:** means substances or devices that are designed to produce an aversive response when used on or applied to a greyhound.

**Barking muzzle:** is a muzzle designed to restrict a greyhound's ability to bark.

**Bed:** means an impervious structure used by a greyhound to rest or sleep in.

**Bedding:** means the material used to line a bed to provide comfort and warmth to a greyhound.

**Biosecurity procedures:** means practices adopted to minimise the risk or spread of disease. These can include effective disinfection or containment of people, animals, equipment, materials or other contaminants within the isolation area.

**Breeding greyhound:** means a greyhound which is registered with the Commission for breeding as a sire or dam.

**Bullring:** means a circular area used for educating and training greyhounds.

**Cage:** means a structure designed to temporarily contain greyhounds.

**Code:** means this Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice.

**Commission:** means the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC).

**Companion animal:** means a pet kept for a person's company.

**Compartment:** means an enclosure within a vehicle or trailer designed for transporting greyhounds.

**Dam:** means the mother of a litter of puppies.

**Disinfectant:** means a chemical used on an inanimate object or surface to destroy micro-organisms that may cause harm to greyhounds.

**Euthanasia:** means the humane destruction of a greyhound.

**Enclosure:** means an area fully secured by fences or barriers designed to prevent the escape of greyhounds.

**Enrichment:** means practices that expose greyhounds to situations or activities that help meet their physical and psychological needs, including any enrichment requirements outlined in this Code.

**Exercise:** means any physical activity of greyhounds that is designed to meet their physical and behavioural needs.

**Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment Plan:** means a documented plan prepared by a participant detailing how the exercise, socialisation and enrichment needs of the greyhound/s in their care will be met.

**Exercise yard:** means an enclosure in which one or more greyhounds may be kept for several hours at a time for the purpose of exercising.

**Galloping run:** means a means an enclosure along which greyhounds can run.

**Greyhound:** means a greyhound kept by a greyhound racing industry participant.

**Greyhound housing area:** means all pens, kennels, cages and enclosures used to house greyhounds, being areas where the greyhounds sleep, eat or exercise, and includes any isolation housing, whelping and lactating areas.

**Greyhound racing industry participant:** means any of the following persons, whether or not the person is employed or engaged on a full-time basis and whether or not the person receives payment or other consideration for the activity concerned:

- (a) a person who owns, breeds or keeps greyhounds,
- (b) a person who trains greyhounds,
- (c) a person who handles greyhounds at a greyhound race or trial,
- (d) a person who acts as a bookmaker or bookmaker's clerk in connection with greyhound racing,
- (e) a person who provides such health services to greyhounds as a prescribed by the regulations,
- (f) any other person who is of a class of persons associated with greyhound racing that is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

**Handling:** means any physical human contact with a greyhound, including grooming, patting/stroking, providing exercise, socialisation and enrichment, and carrying out of a physical health examination.

**Heritable disease or defect:** means a genetic trait or fault that adversely affects an animal's appearance, physiology or functioning.

**Humane euthanasia:** means euthanasia where the greyhound is rendered immediately unconscious and does not regain consciousness before death.

**Impervious:** means materials unable to absorb or be penetrated by water, urine or any other liquids.

**Isolation housing:** means housing that is in a separate area to usual greyhound housing and exercise areas, used specifically to house greyhounds diagnosed with or suspected of having an infectious disease.

**Kennel:** means a pen designed to house a greyhound, often in a series of adjacent pens designed to house multiple greyhounds or puppies.

**Litter:** means all offspring born dead or alive from a single whelping.

**Mating:** means the physical act of copulation between a male and a female greyhound.

**Mating greyhounds pen:** means an enclosure in which greyhounds are kept while mating.

**Monitoring or Monitored:** means observation and assessment of greyhounds on a regular basis, including but not limited to, during routine management activities.

**Muzzle:** means a wire, plastic or mesh piece of equipment that is designed specifically to cover the nose and jaw area of a greyhound, and does not restrict normal and necessary behaviour such as panting and drinking.

**On-Track Veterinarian:** means a veterinarian employed by the Commission in attendance at a greyhound race meeting.

**Owner:** means the person registered with the Commission as the owner of a greyhound.

**Participant:** See: Greyhound racing industry participant.

**Pen:** means a structure designed to house greyhounds or puppies.

**Puppy:** means a greyhound aged under 16 weeks.

**Racing:** means to run swiftly or to compete in a greyhound race event.

**Registered:** means registered under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*.

**Regulation:** means the *Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019*, and any other Regulation made under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*.

**Rehoming:** means transfer of a greyhound to a person who is not a greyhound racing industry participant.

**Retired greyhound:** means a greyhound which is registered with the Commission as retired from racing and/or breeding.

**Sclerosing:** means to harden tissue to create scar tissue.

**Slipping track:** means a straight enclosure along which greyhounds can run.

**Socialisation:** means interaction between a greyhound and other animals (including other greyhounds) and humans to make the greyhound suitable for life as a companion animal.

**Spelling/spelled:** means a period of rest.

**Steward:** means a person employed by the Commission as a Steward.

**Surface:** includes any texture within a housing pen or crate for the purpose of enrichment. For example hard floors, soft bedding, newspaper, artificial grass or turf.

**Tethered or tethering:** means securing a greyhound to an anchor point for the purpose of confining it to a desired area.

**Training:** means to teach educate and/or instruct a greyhound.

**Training facilities:** means a bullring, galloping run, slipping track, trial track and any other facility used for the purpose of training greyhounds.

**Transfer or Transferred:** means to change the ownership of a greyhound.

**Trial track:** means any premises (other than a licensed racecourse) held out by the proprietor as being available for the purpose of enabling greyhounds (other than those owned by or leased to the proprietor) to compete in trials or be trained in racing, and includes such other premises as are prescribed by the *Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019*.

**Veterinarian:** means a veterinary practitioner registered under the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (NSW).

**Veterinary advice:** means advice provided to a participant by a veterinarian.

**Weaned:** means a greyhound puppy that no longer receives a milk diet provided by its mother or from an artificial source.

**Weatherproof:** means protection from the wind, rain and extreme temperatures, to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds in a greyhound housing area.

**Whelping:** means the process of giving birth to greyhound puppies or “whelps”. The term “whelp” refers to a newborn greyhound puppy that lacks the ability to see, hear, or regulate its body temperature. Whelps need to be nursed by their mother until weaning.

**Whelping box:** means housing for a greyhound going through whelping and her puppies up to 16 weeks of age.

**Whelping greyhound pen:** means an enclosure designed to house a dam and her litter of puppies up to the age of 16 weeks.

**Wind down period:** means the period between a greyhound’s retirement from racing or training and being rehomed.