

A GAPing hole - 2021/22 update



Greyhound rehoming in Australia: industry GAPs vs. community rehoming

Prepared by the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds
2023

End greyhound suffering

About the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds

The Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds (CPG) is a not-for-profit committed to ending greyhound suffering by exposing the cruelty and corruption of the greyhound racing industry and lobbying for law reform. We have members across Australia.

We call on Australia's state governments to:

End taxpayer funding. A national survey on attitudes towards dog racing revealed that 69% of Australians oppose the use of taxpayer funds to prop up the greyhound racing industry. State and territory governments must listen to their constituents and stop diverting funds from education, healthcare and employment programs to support this archaic and callous industry.

Stop unsustainable breeding. The greyhound racing industry breeds many more dogs than can be rehomed. Caps on breeding must be introduced to ensure that all dogs bred by the industry are able to live out their lives as pets at the end of their racing career.

Implement whole-of-life tracking. Greyhounds in the racing industry are vulnerable to unnecessary euthanasia, particularly those puppies who do not race and dogs who are rehomed by industry participants. A system must be implemented to monitor the welfare of each greyhound for their entire life.

Establish independent regulators in all jurisdictions. Most jurisdictions rely on self-regulation by the industry, which has been shown again and again to be corrupted by conflicts of interest. Governments benefiting from betting tax revenue must establish independent regulators that prioritise the welfare of greyhounds.

Stop building new tracks. Attempts by the industry to build 'safe' tracks have failed. The evidence shows that greyhounds continue to be injured and killed on all track designs currently in operation, including straight tracks. There is no such thing as a safe dog racing track.

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Executive summary

This document is an update to the [white paper](#) released about 2020/21 rehoming data last year. This year's update includes two new sections. Firstly, CPG has rated the strength of racing industry rehoming requirements in each part of Australia (Appendix 1, p35). On paper (as opposed to whether they are actually enforced), WA's rehoming rules are the strongest, with Queensland being the worst as it has no rehoming requirements at all. Secondly, we explain the ways in which the racing industry fudges its rehoming statistics in order to make its lacklustre rehoming efforts look better (pp 7-8).

Overall, existing requirements for the rehoming of ex-racing greyhounds are weak, despite the community wanting tougher animal welfare laws. This is because in most jurisdictions, there are few (if any) obligations imposed on industry participants to rehome an ex-racing greyhound before euthanising the animal. There is also little evidence that racing bodies enforce the rules that do exist and penalise those who fail to comply, unless greyhounds have been killed and buried without notification.

In FY21/22, the national rate of greyhound breeding continues to be about six times¹ the racing industry's capacity to rehome via its GAPs.

Community rehoming leads the way in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. While the

effort by volunteer-run charities is excellent, many of them are now under serious strain and some are at crisis point.²

GAP WA has been rehoming slightly more than the community for several years and in 2021/22 has continued to do so. Unlike every other state racing body in Australia, WA also treats each greyhound which suffers a broken leg while racing. Sadly, a small number of these greyhounds die in kennels while undergoing treatment or are euthanised following failed treatment.

Both SA and the NT remain the 'black holes' of industry rehoming: the NT publishes no welfare data, while Greyhound Racing SA publishes as little as possible and is immune to FOI. The SA dog racing industry's lack of transparency and disinformation is discussed in greater detail on page 18 of this report.

Overall, the disturbing trend of racing dog owners directly disposing of greyhounds to third parties continues at a similar level for the third year in a row, except for WA where it is rapidly increasing and industry participants retain the fewest dogs. Discarding dogs to third parties is not recommended by the RSPCA because dogs can 'disappear', be used in fighting rings as bait dogs, or be dumped at pounds, etc. - see diagram on p6.

² Mary Ward, [Online gambling driving surge in greyhound breeding, rescues inundated](#), The Sydney Morning Herald/Sun-Herald; Age/Sunday Age; Brisbane Times; WA Today - January 29, 2023; Mitch Clarke, ["The Official Greyhound Adoption Program is broken, advocates say"](#), January 10, 2023 - Herald Sun/Sunday Herald Sun (VIC).

¹ See table 1: ~12,000 dogs bred nationally in 21/22, but only 2,555 rehomed by GAP in the same period.



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This trend means there is an urgent need for tracking data to be collected and published by regulators and state governments, yet not one jurisdiction in Australia has birth to death tracking.

If such tracking did exist, it would identify and prevent the inappropriate disposal of greyhounds via 'a mate', i.e., 'I gave it to a mate down the road and he got rid of it'.

Only the NSW regulator states it monitors this process. However, the data is not made public, ostensibly due to privacy concerns. This could easily be managed by the way in which the data is presented.

An emerging threat is when industry

participants, or third parties to whom they have rehomed a dog, dump a greyhound at a pound. Pounds do not publish breed data, so there is little transparency about how large this problem is and it needs investigation by regulators.

Meanwhile, GAPs still kill dogs given to them for rehoming - some as many as one in ten - yet community rescues rehome without euthanising dogs unless they are terminally ill.

Finally, CPG recommends several solutions that both state governments and the racing industry could adopt if they want to improve greyhound rehoming (pp18-19).



The Sydney Morning Herald

National NSW [Greyhound racing](#)

Online gambling driving surge in greyhound breeding, rescues inundated



Mary Ward

January 29, 2023 — 5.00am

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Community greyhound rescues are struggling to keep up with the number of dogs coming out of the racing industry, as welfare advocates say a revival of the sport through [record online gambling income is driving unsustainable breeding](#).



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Introduction

Why does CPG publish national rehoming data?

Prior to the [first report](#) in this series three years ago, national rehoming data was not available. This meant there was no way to assess the racing industry's performance in this area.

CPG has compiled the data in this report from the industry's annual reports, as well as other sources as indicated.

CPG undertakes this analysis because the data reveals:

- the grubby reality behind the dog racing industry's multi-million dollar marketing spin and
- how the dog racing industry routinely lies about its rehoming efforts.

The rehoming 'game'

For those unfamiliar with the dog racing industry, ex-racing greyhounds in Australia are rehomed in the following four ways.

Industry participants – such as owners and trainers who decide to keep a dog or dogs, while some will enjoy life as a pet, industry codes allow this category of greyhound to be caged for up to 23 out of every 24 hours for the rest of their lives.

Many greyhounds are rehomed this way and except for NSW, there is generally no oversight of the lives these greyhounds then endure.

Industry participants who rehome dogs to third parties who aren't bona fide adopters – this is not recommended by the RSPCA as there is no transparency and greyhounds can end up as bait dogs in fighting rings, be dropped off at pounds, be abandoned or killed, or end up back at community rescues - see [Gracie's story](#), see [Buddy's story](#). In fact, the RSPCA [also says](#) third party adoptions should be verified and followed up to ensure they are genuine. This is because it's long been a method used by the racing industry to '[disappear](#)' greyhounds, i.e., "I gave it to a mate down the road. Dunno what he did with it."

Community rescues – are run by volunteers and must fundraise to survive.

It is a common misconception that these charity groups have kennels where greyhounds are fostered and prepared for homing. There are only one or two community greyhound rescue groups that have kennels in Australia.

Instead, the reality is that fostering is done by members of the public in their own homes as volunteers - see story [here](#) and [here](#). Community rescue groups (see list [here](#)) will keep greyhounds that need more time to adjust from their racing life, sometimes for as long as a year (see Zoe's story [here](#)) In fact, there are even community foster carers who specialise in rehabilitating greyhounds with serious medical issues.

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Most importantly, the community rehoming groups don't euthanise greyhounds unless they are suffering a terminal illness.

"We knew we had to take Zoe to save her life. GAP [Victoria] wouldn't take her.

One of GRV's own vets said he wasn't willing to put Zoe through the GAP assessment because of the condition of her foot."



Greyhound Zoe with her injured foot

GAPs - are the rehoming arms of the dog racing industry body in each state or territory (except for Queensland which is funded and run by the state government via its greyhound industry regulator, QRIC).

Confusingly, while referred to as GAP (Greyhound Adoption Program) in some states, the NSW industry calls its GAP rehoming scheme (Greyhounds as Pets), as do WA and SA. Long before the racing industry was making any effort to find retired dogs a post-racing home, a small community rescue in NSW used the name [Greyhound Adoption Program NSW Inc.](#) and still operates today.

The GAPs are set up as non-profits and recruit volunteers, but have multi-million dollar budgets (GAP NSW - \$6.4M in FY 2021/22³, GAP Victoria - \$4.59M in FY 21/22⁴). Some volunteers find out to their horror after becoming involved with GAP that they're supporting an organisation which will kill a poorly socialised greyhound, rather than rehabilitate it. These volunteers eventually find their way to the community rescue groups and spread the word about what goes on inside the GAPs.

The reality is that many of the state-based GAPs rehome fewer greyhounds than the community. Instead, a great deal of GAP money goes on PR to give the public the impression that the industry is rehoming the majority of its dogs.

³ [GRNSW Annual report 21/22](#), p. 35.

⁴ [GRV Annual report 21/22](#) p. 30.

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Sadly, most GAPs don't do home and backyard inspections, or 'meet and greets' with existing pets or the family members of the home the dog will be entering, unlike community-run rescue groups. This can lead to all kinds of problems. CPG, as well as community rescues, have been contacted by adopters needing advice because either their state GAP is unhelpful, or, refuses to take the dog back when a problem arises.

"The GAPs are set up as non-profits and recruit volunteers, but have multi-million dollar budgets"

Some GAPs also suspend operations when they get too full. GAP Victoria is well known in community-run rescue circles for providing trainers with the mobile number for Gumtree Greys, a community rescue group (which is run by volunteers and has none of GAP's resources or funding). Some trainers will then add to the profound stress already borne by volunteers by advising that if their greyhound is not accepted, it will be euthanised.

The lying game

What is astonishing about the GAPs is how often their rehoming figures are fudged. Chief offenders in this are the NSW, Victorian and South Australian dog racing bodies.

In FY22, GRNSW (Greyhound Racing NSW) claimed it rehomed 2,014 greyhounds, while the NSW greyhound industry regulator more accurately advised 1,352 greyhounds were rehomed in the state. So what accounts for the discrepancy? GRNSW intentionally releases misleading data.

For example, in its annual report it claims - "GRNSW assisted in the transition of a record 2,014 greyhounds into pet life during FY 21-22".⁵ This has nothing to do with GAP. Instead, GRNSW takes credit for other people's rehoming efforts because it reimburses [small amounts of money](#) (for rehoming preparation, such as desexing and dental treatments) to:

- owners of racing greyhounds who plan to keep their dogs,
- pet owners who have adopted an un-desexed racing greyhound,
- rehoming groups which have had un-desexed racing greyhounds relinquished to them.

⁵ [GRNSW Annual report 21/22](#), p. 7.

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GRNSW's annual reports never quantify how much it spends in this way, probably because the sum would be paltry if revealed. Consequently, the only way to find reliable NSW rehoming data is to use [the data provided](#) by the NSW Government's dog racing regulator, GWIC.

Any journalist who uses racing industry rehoming data is relying on a source which is intentionally inaccurate. This applies to every self-regulated dog racing body (which includes Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia), while the Northern Territory has a Racing Commission that releases [no greyhound welfare data](#).

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) and GRSA (Greyhound Racing SA) are both self-regulated entities. Back when GRNSW was still allowed to self-regulate, its data dishonesty was extensive and today's self-regulated greyhound industry bodies are no different.

The McHugh inquiry found that - "GRNSW engaged in a deliberate process of underreporting of injuries in its stewards' reports...this was done so as not to inflame criticisms by animal welfare organisations and other bodies. GRNSW 'massaged' the descriptions of the injuries suffered by dogs so that they would not appear as severe as they in fact were."⁶

"When GRNSW was still allowed to self-regulate, its data dishonesty was rife."

Similarly, GRV (despite being a government entity), fudges its rehoming data by failing to release transparent information. Consequently, the only way to obtain any useful data is to pay for an FOI request.

GRSA also dodges transparency by being the only commercial racing body in the country which is immune to FOI. The RSPCA SA [has long called for](#) the SA Government to rectify this situation, but both major parties have failed to do so when in power. Consequently, GAP SA makes absurd rehoming claims (see Table 1 in this document on page 28).

GAP SA would have the public and the media believe it rehomed 489 dogs in 2021/22 to SA's estimated population of 1.7M, while NSW's population is c8.3M and GAP NSW rehomed only 301 dogs in the same period. So, either GAP NSW should be examining GAP SA's more efficient rehoming methods, or GAP SA is fudging its figures, the way it always has previously according to the RSPCA. Hopefully, the [pending inquiry](#) into SA dog racing will result in change to GRSA's lack of transparency.

⁶ [Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in New South Wales](#), 7 Jul 2016, Vol. 1, section 4.121.

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The GAP 'entry game'

It is well known within the rescue community that the industry GAPs use their [entry assessment requirements](#) to 'fail' greyhounds that would take longer to rehabilitate. For example, GAPs will reject greyhounds that haven't been [socialised](#), rather than penalising the industry participants who have failed to provide this required training.

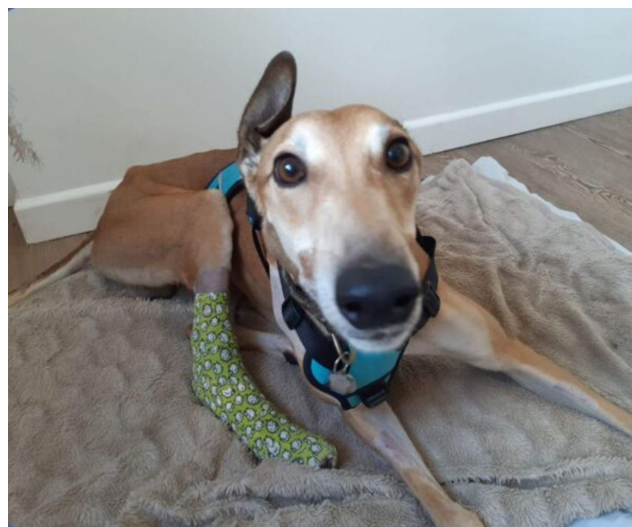
According to the [RSPCA](#), many racing greyhound puppies and adult dogs are not adequately socialised with other dogs, humans, or with the experiences that companion dogs are likely to encounter in their lives (see [this video](#) for the challenges stairs can present).

This was confirmed by a [CPG survey](#) of greyhound rescue groups around Australia. The survey also revealed that most dogs were in poor condition, with some unable to walk up or down stairs and some had untreated wounds from track racing. The racing industry's use of [prison inmates](#) to socialise its dogs highlights the extent of the problem. Not surprisingly, RSPCA Australia says it [does not support greyhound racing](#).

Rules for the rehoming of ex-racing greyhounds lag way behind public expectation

In most jurisdictions, there are few (if any) obligations imposed on industry participants to attempt to rehome an ex-racing greyhound before euthanising

the animal. The few obligations that do exist are not legally enforceable and do not afford much protection to ex-racing greyhounds.



Greyhound dumped at community rescue with an untreated broken leg receives care - *image provided by rescue group.*

These obligations exist within 'rules' created by state and territory racing bodies - see Appendix 1 for details. There is little evidence that racing bodies or regulators actually enforce these rules and penalise industry participants who fail to comply. The independent NSW regulator is better than most in this respect, but has not been empowered to track ex-racers sent interstate. This is a major loophole - see loophole diagram on page 6.

It is important to remember that other animal welfare issues fall within the ambit of state and territory animal welfare legislation. Breaches of these legislative instruments are investigated and enforced by government authorities and attract civil and criminal penalties.

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There are no equivalent protections afforded to retiring greyhounds which are usually treated as livestock under state laws. It is entirely at the discretion of racing authorities to impose consequences on owners who fail to make meaningful attempts to rehome greyhounds.

These 'consequences' are a far cry from the civil and criminal penalties in animal welfare legislation - they include warnings, reprimands, suspensions and disqualifications. In some jurisdictions - such as the NT and South Australia - there are absolutely no consequences for racers who do not attempt to rehome a greyhound before having it euthanised.

Per jurisdiction - state or territory rehoming requirements for racing greyhounds

As detailed in Appendix 1, Western Australia has stronger protections and there are consequences if the owner does not comply.

NSW, Victoria and the Northern Territory have protections, but there are few or no consequences for failing to comply. CPG has reviewed in depth the infraction decisions issued by regulatory bodies and rehoming transgressions are rarely if ever mentioned. The only rare exception is when a regulator discovers that an industry participant has killed and buried greyhounds on his or her property without giving the required notice of euthanasia.

Worst of all is Queensland which has no rehoming policy whatsoever, yet is now building the largest [new racing facility](#) in Australia. The Queensland greyhound industry regulator, QRIC (Queensland Racing Integrity Commission) has confirmed by email to CPG that there is no obligation to rehome ex-racers.

The consequences of this focus [on betting revenue](#) rather than animal welfare by the Palaszczuk Government are shocking. In the last four years, Queensland has discarded almost 800 ex-racing dogs to labs for experiments and to vet practices for terminal blood banking⁷. This is undoubtedly happening in other states, but the relevant statistics are not available.

The Northern Territory Government's rehoming record is also appalling, as documented by the [Darwin Greyhound Association report](#). The NT Government is now way overdue in publishing data on outcomes achieved since the report was released almost two years ago.

South Australia's dog racing body - GRSA (Greyhound Racing SA) has merely a statement of intent on rehoming which has no legal standing.

⁷ Vet hospitals use discarded greyhounds as blood donors before euthanasing them, a practice known as 'terminal blood banking' - [Sentient website](#).

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Meanwhile, NSW is the first jurisdiction to [announce](#) that retired greyhounds can't be surrendered to facilities that conduct animal research, animal plasma or blood collection. It remains to be seen how well this new policy will be monitored and enforced. This approach is urgently needed in every jurisdiction. Ultimately, the dumping of ex-racers at such facilities destroys once and for all the absurd claim by the industry participants that they 'love their dogs'.

Finally, what must be remembered for every jurisdiction, is that while protections exist on paper, they have little meaning unless they are enforced. Until all jurisdictions report transparently on the nature, frequency and findings of enforcement related to rehoming, there is no clarity as to whether the protections that exist on paper have teeth. Finally, all existing rules fail to close the well-known loopholes outlined on the next page.

Greyhound surrendered to community-run rescue with a damaged eye so neglected that it had to be removed



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Solutions needed to rehoming greyhounds after racing

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MAY 13, 2022

A national survey involving a Central Coast-based rescuer has pointed to flaws in the greyhound racing industry's rehoming procedure for retired dogs.



Greyhound surrendered to community rescue group with his eye so badly damaged that it had to be removed (image supplied by rescue).

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CPG overview – rehoming numbers and budgets

The number of greyhounds bred in 2019, 2020 and 2021 was approximately 12,000 per year, with this level exceeded for the first time in FY2022 at over 14,000. So, with so many greyhounds bred annually, what happens when they're no longer wanted for racing? And how many get rehomed?

Community volunteer rescue groups (which rely on donations and fundraising) in most states have managed to stay just ahead of the industry's effort despite the difficulties posed for them (see Table 1 on the next page). In Queensland, community rehoming has increased by 25%, which is a remarkable achievement for a volunteer run effort.

The big racing states continue to provide their GAPs with large budgets. GAP NSW received \$6.4M in 2021/22⁸ (\$4.9M in 2020/21⁹), while GAP Victoria received \$4.59M in the FY21/22¹⁰ (\$3.8M in FY20/21¹¹).

These funds come from their respective state racing bodies. The two exceptions are GAP Queensland which is [entirely funded](#) by the State Government and GAP Tasmania where the bulk of the Tasracing budget comes from the State Government¹².

That these well-funded GAPs rehome so

few dogs makes a mockery of the tag line that the industry 'loves its dogs'.

GAP NSW, GAP Victoria and GAP TAS **still** rehome fewer dogs than the community does.

In FY21/22, GAP NSW only rehomed 301 greyhounds, (almost 15 per cent less than 2021) and is behind NSW community volunteer rehoming efforts. There is something very amiss if just over 300 dogs is all that GAP NSW can rehome (301 greyhounds with a \$6.4M budget is about \$21,200 per dog in rough terms).¹³

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) hides the number of dogs rehomed via its GAP by combining GAP rehoming with rehoming by industry participants. GRV gets away with this poor data transparency because the Victorian Government has so far failed to create an independent government funded regulator.

Worse yet, the Northern Territory has zero data collected by its government, making the NT racing industry's rehoming efforts completely unknown.

⁸ [GRNSW Annual report 21/22](#), p. 35

⁹ [GRNSW Annual report 20/21](#), p. 41

¹⁰ [GRV Annual report 21/22](#) p. 30.

¹¹ [GRV Annual report 20/21](#), p. 50

¹² tasracingcorporate.com.au/about/funding/

¹³ [GRNSW Annual report 21/22](#), p. 35

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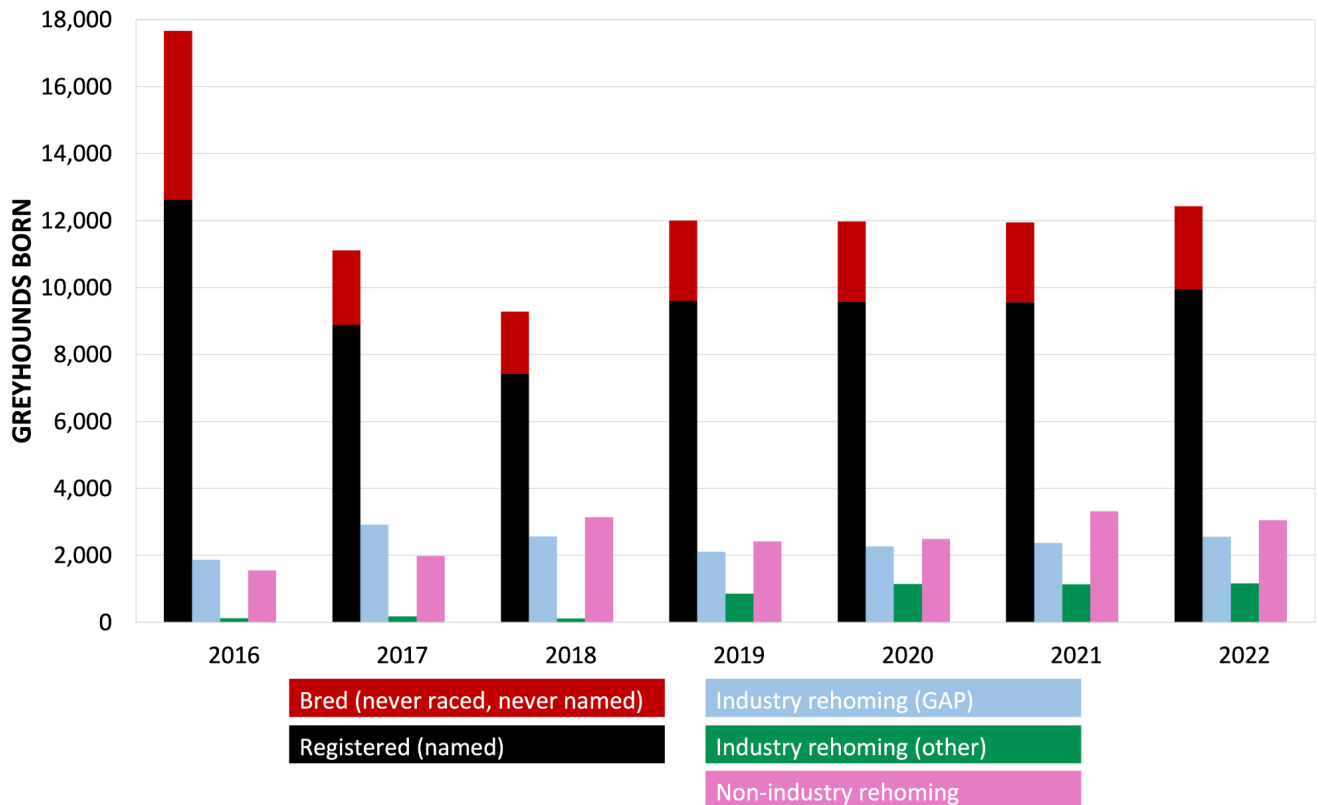


Table 1: Breeding vs Rehoming

For this table, greyhound rehoming data was collated by CPG, while greyhound registration data was sourced from the *Australian and New Zealand Greyhound Stud Book*, Volume 68 (page 9). Greyhounds are generally named for racing at between 12 and 18 months of age, creating a time lag between whelping and naming. The category of dogs bred but never named/registered is not captured in the stud book, hence this is estimated as 40 per cent of the registered (named) figure for 2016 and 25 per cent for 2017-2022. The 40 per cent estimate is derived from the McHugh inquiry, after which breeding numbers dropped. For the years after 2016, the 25 per cent estimate is based on advice received from regulators, as well as being the figure cited by the CEO of Greyhound Racing Victoria during an interview with ABC-TV.

With such large budgets, it's reasonable to expect that the GAPs would outperform Australia's community rescues, but they do not. This applies particularly to the large

racing states on the eastern seaboard of Australia – see **Table 2** below.

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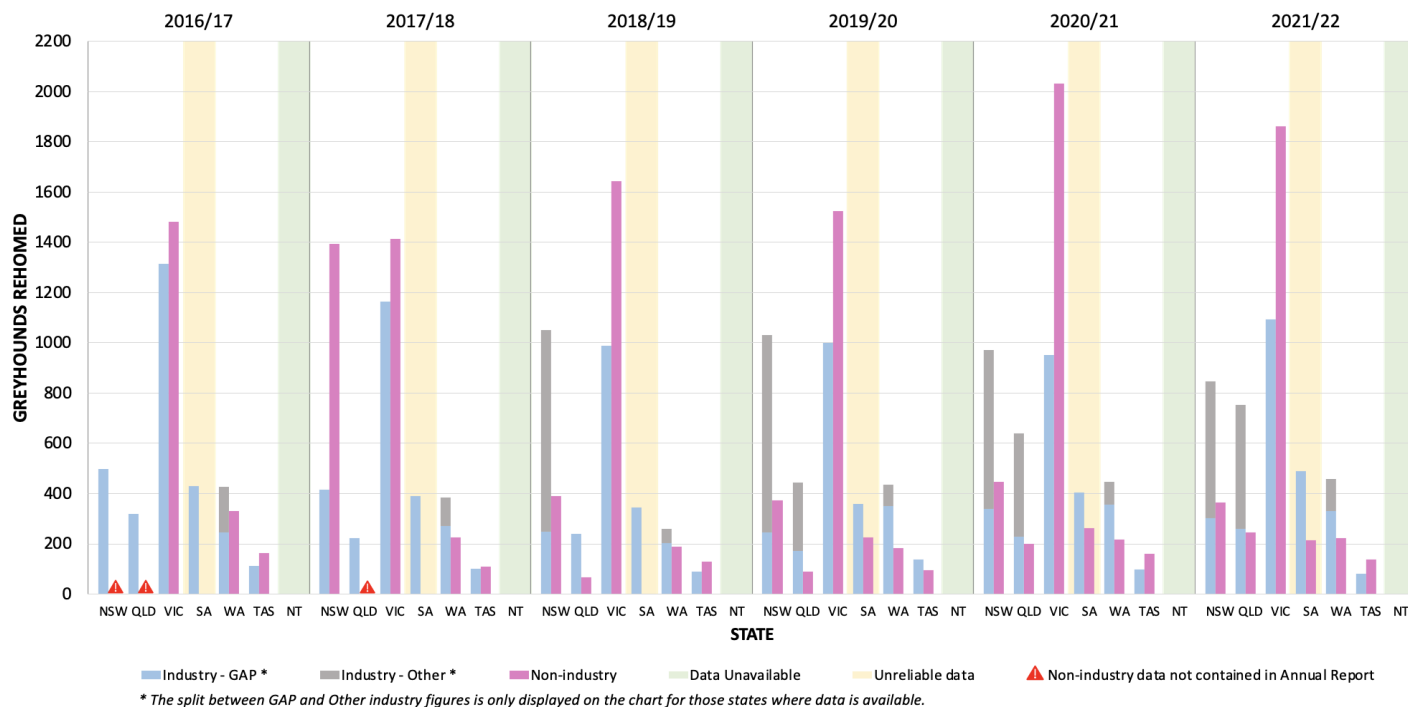


Table 2: Industry vs Community Rehoming

Victorian and WA data are not audited by an independent regulator as occurs in Queensland, Tasmania and NSW. SA data is listed as unreliable as RSPCA SA has slammed Greyhound Racing SA for its lack of data transparency. The NT publishes no data on greyhound rehoming. See Table 3 for supporting data.

CPG analysis – rehoming numbers by state/territory

VICTORIA

GAP Victoria's efforts have not only flatlined over the last three years, but decreased slightly in FY20/21. This trend has continued in FY21/22 with only a slight increase in GAP rehoming.

Over the last four years, while the number of registered greyhounds has increased, the number of GAP rehomed greyhounds claimed by GRV averages about 1,000 per

year. This means that the GAP program has become less effective as the rehoming numbers fail to increase at the same rate as the number of registered greyhounds.

In particular, GAP Victoria's rehoming efforts were only about half that of the community in both FY20/21 and FY21/22. This is a pathetic effort once again from one of the biggest and richest dog racing states in Australia.



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Worse still, Victoria also refuses to clarify what percentage of its rehoming is done by its GAP and what is done by industry participants themselves. As at 30 June 2022, Greyhound Racing Victoria said there were more than 6,000 registered industry participants, so it's likely that GAP Victoria's actual rehoming numbers are little better than those of NSW, i.e., just a few hundred per year.

On a more positive note, once again the effort by Victorian community groups has been outstanding with an increase from around 1,500 dogs in FY19/20 to more than 2,000 in FY20/21. Victorian community groups continued to have a large effect contributing to around 1,800 dogs being rehomed in FY 21/22.

Because Victoria is one of the largest racing states in Australia, it would be reasonable to expect that Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) would rehome thousands of dogs each year by maintaining an extensive network of kennels and foster carers, but this is not the case.

Instead, GRV claims to have rehomed via its GAP program:

- less than 1000 dogs per year for the period FY 17/18 - FY 2020/21,
- just over 1000 dogs in FY 2021/22.

The truth is that its GAP has probably rehomed less than half these amounts. It does this by taking credit for the rehoming done by:

- industry participants to unidentified third parties,
- dogs retained by participants (either for breeding or other purposes).

GRV gets away with this lack of data transparency despite the fact that it is a 'non budgeted government entity'. This is because unlike the two other large racing states of NSW and Queensland, GRV has been allowed to self-regulate by the Victorian Government.

Worse still, despite GRV receiving ~\$140M in revenue for FY21/22¹⁴, GAP Victoria rehomed only 1,094 greyhounds with a budget of \$4.595M in the FY21/22¹⁵. This is approximately \$4,200 per dog. Also, it is an increase in cost of almost \$150 per dog, showing a decrease in efficiency in the rehoming process, while GRV continues to increase spending in other key business areas such as advertising¹⁶. Sadly, the highest rehoming figure in Victoria was 1,314 greyhounds in the FY16/17.

¹⁴ GRV annual report 21/22, p. 30

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 40

¹⁶ Ibid., p. 41

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This is unacceptable given GAPs tend to accept those greyhounds that are the easiest to rehome. At the same time they reject those that are poorly socialised by their racing owners, yet these owners are never penalised for this breach of GRV's welfare code.

GAPs are famous in the rescue community for taking the 'easy dogs' and leaving those that require rehabilitation or have medical issues to the community rescues. To add insult to injury, whenever GAP Victoria decides to limit its wait list or its intake, it routinely gives trainers and racing dog owners the mobile number of cash-strapped Victorian community rescues like Gumtree Greys.¹⁷

Ultimately, the Victorian Government is failing in its ethical responsibility for these dogs, given its [support for the racing industry](#), as well as failing the expectations of Victorian voters when it comes to animal welfare.

The Victorian Government's failure to create an independent regulator for the racing industry - following the Victorian dog racing inquiries - has also resulted in GRV obscuring its rehoming statistics. This is obvious when the transparent reporting used by NSW's greyhound industry regulator is compared with what GRV provides on the public record.

Note: GAP Victoria's data is not scrutinised by an independent regulator as is the case in NSW.

Further transparency is needed by way of third party audited data. Without this, GRV's claims remain unverified.

It's important to remember that in 2015 and 2016, the Greyhound Safety Net and the Animal Justice Party claimed publicly that GAP Victoria's rehoming data was wholly unreliable.

Finally, GAP Victoria euthanised 28 greyhounds from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

NSW

For the fourth financial year in a row, the industry's rehoming total continued on a downward trend. Unfortunately, community rehoming has also gone backwards following last year's slight increase - see **Table 3** on the following page. This has resulted in only 1,200 dogs being rehomed, a decrease from 1,400 in the previous year. Despite being a nationwide giant in respect of greyhound racing, NSW has failed to deliver on rehoming in keeping with their profits and growth.

With its huge FY21/22 budget of \$6.4M, GRNSW's GAP rehomed only 301 dogs itself, with 245 dogs rehomed to third parties by industry participants and 302 retained by industry participants. This year's budget represents a \$1.5M increase in the GAP budget, while leading to 38 less dogs being rehomed by the GAP program in this FY compared to 20/21.¹⁸

¹⁷ Reported on multiple occasions to CPG by Gumtree Greys (Victoria).

¹⁸ [GRNSW Annual report 21/22](#), p. 35

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This is a clear sign of reduced productivity in the GAP NSW program with the marginal cost increasing by \$6,808 per dog rehomed. Not surprisingly, industry participants are frustrated.¹⁹

For yet another year, GAP NSW has not met its re-homing target in GRNSW's strategic plan. Despite this, the NSW Government is still failing to address the absence of hard deadlines or penalties for late delivery in [GRNSW's operating licence](#). Instead, NSW politicians continue to reward an under-performing industry with [millions of taxpayer dollars](#) every year. This is deeply unethical on the part of the NSW Government which claims it supports animal welfare.

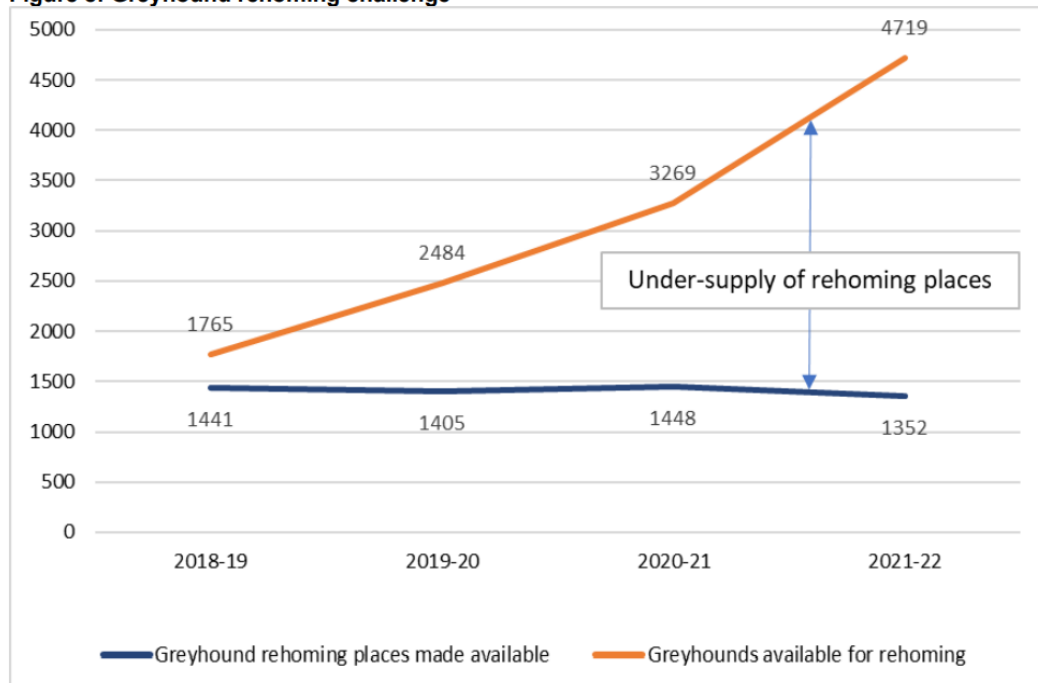
Meanwhile, community-run greyhound rescue groups are struggling with

volunteers under great pressure from trainers and owners of ex-racers to take their dogs. In fact, the NSW regulator GWIC has demonstrated how serious the over-supply of ex-racers is with the graph above.²⁰

NSW's new rehoming 'game'

This year, GRNSW has introduced a new rehoming game - flying dogs to the USA and rehoming dogs with [first responders](#), such as police (in Australia and in the USA).

Figure 8: Greyhound rehoming challenge



¹⁹ [Zammit calls for quicker greyhound rehoming period in NSW](#), Australian Racing Greyhound, December 7, 2022.

²⁰ [GWIC Life Cycle Report](#) Q1-2022/23 FY, p8.

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As usual, there is no transparency about the welfare aspects of these projects - Worse still, [one dog has already died](#) enroute to the USA.

While there is a desperate need for innovative rehoming efforts, it must be done transparently if the racing industry wishes to convince the public and the media that all is well.

Given the NSW dog racing industry's large and [recent profits](#), it should be a minor matter for GRNSW to include on its website full details (with updates) about every greyhound rehomed to the USA, or to a first responder (whether in the USA or in Australia).

The community has a right to know about how well NSW ex-racing dogs are being prepared to serve [as a PTSD companion animal](#), how many fail the training and what is being spent to achieve this outcome.

Given this industry is well known for cutting corners when it comes to animal welfare, merely releasing 'puff pieces' for the media is not enough (see the next page for questions GRNSW should answer).

GRNSW's stubborn refusal to satisfy community expectations will always be its undoing, as it was this year with its [proposed facility in the Hunter region](#).

The development application (DA) for this facility raised many welfare issues. In particular, many speakers at the Hunter planning committee's online meeting commented about the lack of evacuation planning for this bushfire prone area with only one road in or out.

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Questions for GRNSW on rehoming

If GRNSW wants to up its game, here are just a few questions (from a very long list) that it should be answering.

1. Why is GRNSW flying dogs to the USA to be PTSD assistance dogs when there's [a serious shortage](#) of such dogs in Australia?
2. Is the PTSD training received by GRNSW's GAP dogs accredited by a recognised provider of such service dogs, e.g., Assistance Dogs Australia (ADA), PAT Dogs, etc.
3. ADA says it takes [two years to train and costs up to \\$60,000](#) to provide a qualified Assistance Dog. Pat Dogs Australia says [it costs \\$40,000](#) to cover the two years of training. What is GRNSW spending on the training of each PTSD support dog a) placed in Australia, b) flown to the USA?
4. When a 'match' with a police officer (or any member of the community) doesn't work out, why isn't there a GRNSW GAP written policy regarding returns on the GRNSW website? - [see this page where there is no guarantee](#).
Note: [RSPCA policy](#) says - *4.5 Animals adopted from the RSPCA will always be accepted back.* Many community-run rescue groups in NSW have experience with GAP NSW refusing to accept returns. It's the same in Victoria. So, once again impoverished community-run rescue groups pick up the pieces.
5. Similarly, why isn't there a written guarantee on GRNSW's website about accepting any returned greyhound without euthanasia (as per community-run greyhound rescues?)
6. What percentage of GRNSW's rehoming to NSW police is done via a screening process that includes a physical onsite visit to the adoptive household to ensure the dog is going to a home with [1.5m minimum fencing](#)? And do NSW police sign a contract undertaking to keep a pet greyhound inside? If so, where is this info on GRNSW's website?
Note: Community-based rehoming groups run careful screening programs ([see here](#)) to avoid rehoming to households a) without suitable fencing for greyhounds, b) where a greyhound will be left outside. NSW's greyhound industry regulator recommends [1.5m minimum fencing](#), as do most greyhound rescue groups. Despite this, all GAPS, including NSW GAP, hold [free 'give away' days](#) at which the public can turn up and leave with a grey.

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QUEENSLAND

It is only in the last two financial years that Queensland has collected community rehoming data.

The 2021/22 GAP Qld rehoming statistics have moved upwards from 2020/21, showing an increase for the fifth straight year. Even though the raw numbers rehomed are relatively small, this is a positive step in the right direction by a GAP that is funded by public money (via QRIC, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, a government body), instead of by the racing industry as in all other jurisdictions.

As a result, it is not unreasonable to take the view that it is taxpayers (the community once again) which pays to rehome Queensland's ex-racing dogs.

Incredibly, According to *Greyhound Breeding, Race Injury and Retirement Quarterly Reports*²¹ released by QRIC, over the last four years 785 retired greyhounds have been "surrendered to other agency", which QRIC defines as "universities and veterinary practices."

The scale of greyhounds being discarded in this way would sicken most Australians. Indeed when 2021/22 figures alone are considered, 196 dogs were sent to labs and universities, while only 256 dogs were retired to GAP Qld for rehoming. This must stop.

²¹ QRIC's [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Quarterly report April-June 2022](#), p8.

GAP Qld's budget in FY 2021/22 was \$1.13M²², so it costs taxpayers roughly \$4,414 per dog to rehome.

Finally, industry participants kept 292 dogs in FY2021/22, compared to 235 in FY2020/21.



Vince with greyhound Chilli, one of the many dogs not socialised as required by greyhound industry codes so he is familiar with household challenges like steps. See story [here](#).

TASMANIA

Tasmanian racing regulation has been riven by problems in the last year, with [calls](#) for the Racing Minister to resign. Meanwhile, there has been a decrease in overall rehoming in Tasmania from 259 in FY20/21 to 219 in FY 21/22.

²² Ibid., p.16

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GAP Tasmania is run by the racing industry body Tasracing and rehomed only 98 greyhounds in FY20/21, down from 138 in FY19/20. GAP Tasmania euthanised zero dogs this year, reaching the target set last year.²³

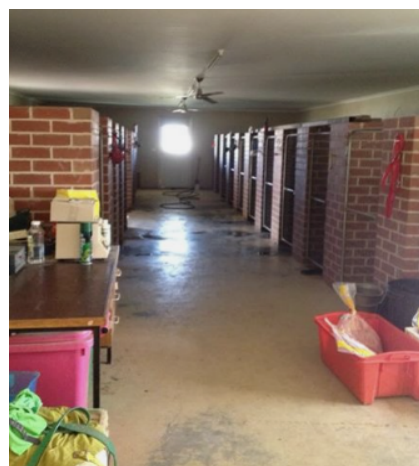
The community rescues rehomed 161 dogs in 2020/21, making up for the industry's shortfall. Unfortunately the decrease in GAP adoption figures has continued in 2021/22, with only 81 dogs adopted through GAP. Again, community mobilization is helping mitigate the industry shortfall by rehoming 138 dogs. Overall, this led to a decrease in total dogs rehomed.

Given the [record-breaking petition](#) against the state government's financial support of the dog racing industry, it is apt that the community rescues outperformed GAP Tasmania. Astonishingly, the Tasmanian racing industry receives a [minimum of \\$27M a year](#) regardless of performance, yet its rehoming effort is very inadequate. Despite this, [leaked information](#) suggests GAP Tasmania plans to euthanise even more dogs in future.

Meanwhile, the recent [response](#) by the Tasmanian Government to the [Monteith review](#) of the greyhound racing industry will hopefully mean more funds for rehoming. In response, the Tasmanian Government said it requires clarification and further policy consideration before settling on a definitive response²⁴, but:

- supports in principle \$200,000 going towards implementation of animal welfare and integrity standards,²⁵
- has promised support in part for existing Tasracing animal welfare functions and for animal rehoming to be administered by Tasracing Integrity,²⁶
- supports TasRIC obtaining integrity and animal welfare plans from Tasracing, including financial information.²⁷

Only time will tell if the Government's response will result in any improvements to the [parlous state](#) of dog racing regulation in Tasmania.



Many greyhounds are only familiar with concrete kennel surfaces when trainers fail to socialise them properly, e.g., steps are unknown to them (*image - Farm Transparency Project*)

²³ [ORIC Annual report 21/22](#) p.15

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid., p. 2

²⁶ Ibid., p. 9 (part 3 ii))

²⁷ Ibid., p. 3-4 (part 2 ii))

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WA

WA's greyhound racing body is Racing and Wagering WA (RWWA). In FY21/22 GAP WA rehomed 331 greyhounds, a step in the wrong direction compared to the 355 dogs rehomed in FY20/21.²⁸

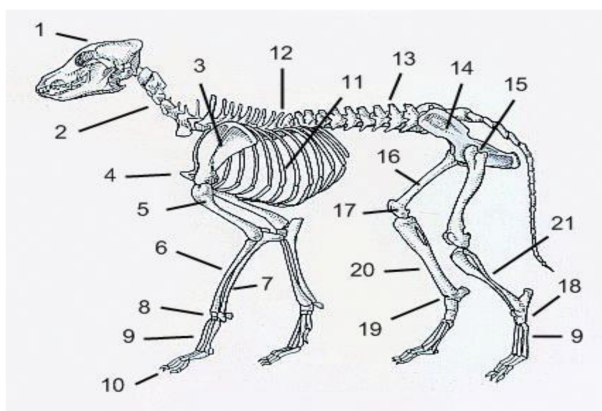
WA greyhound industry participants rehomed only 11 dogs in FY 21/22 and 16 dogs in FY20/21. These numbers were all time lows and a pitiful showing compared to participants elsewhere.

Table 3 also reveals a five year downward trend in those participants who keep their dogs as 'pets' after retirement. So much for the racing industry's mantra that they "love their dogs".

In FY 21/22, 115 greyhounds were rehomed by industry participants to third parties. This figure has ranged from a low of 39 in FY18/19 to a high of 125 dogs in FY16/17.

In FY 21/22, 145 greyhounds were euthanised.²⁹

Greyhound Injury Recovery Scheme – Table of Injury Eligibility



²⁸ [RWWA Annual report 21/22](#)

²⁹ [RWWA Annual report 21/22](#) p.31

"WA greyhound industry participants rehomed only 11 dogs in FY 21/22 and 16 dogs in FY20/21.

These numbers were all time lows and a pitiful showing compared to participants elsewhere.

WA injury/rehoming schemes

RWWA (Racing and Wagering WA) is unique in that it does not routinely euthanise greyhounds with broken legs, as does every other dog racing body in Australia.

While this is a positive move, there are problems with RWWA's injury subsidy scheme, the [Greyhound Injury Full Recovery Scheme](#) (GIFRS). Dogs recovering from surgery under the GIFRS are left in kennels and not in a comfortable home environment under constant supervision, i.e., in foster care.

According to data obtained by [Free the Hounds](#) from RWWA via FOI, greyhound Wagtail Sage suffered a severe infection following surgery under the GIFRS. He was eventually euthanised due to this

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infection, but it's likely he would have survived if he'd been in foster, rather than being in kennels over the Christmas period when staff are particularly sparse.

Another problem is the length of time GIFRS greyhounds remain in kennels after surgery. This can extend up to nine months in duration, which can be severely damaging to dogs' psychological well being. Free the Hounds estimates that RWWA is currently warehousing about 100 greyhounds post-injury that it has not been able to rehome.



Moyra and Chris are volunteer foster carers with community-run [Gumtree Greys](#), which rescues hundreds of greyhounds along the eastern seaboard of Australia and especially in Victoria and Queensland. They take on special challenges by fostering dogs that are seriously ill. See the story [here](#).

South Australia

With the lack of community-run greyhound rescue groups in SA, GAP SA has an even greater responsibility to rehome ex-racers and it is performing badly.

GAP SA claims to have rehomed 489 dogs in FY 21/22. While this figure exceeds rehoming in previous years, it is not enough when considered alongside GAP SA's budget of \$2.204M in the same period³⁰. In rough terms, it cost GAP SA \$4,507 to rehome each dog.

Moreover, Greyhound Racing SA makes the highly doubtful claim that its GAP SA rehomed all greyhounds retired in the state during FY21/22. As this amounts to 489 dogs (see table 3) - and GAP NSW with its large budget rehomed only 301 dogs in the same period - either GAP NSW is highly inefficient, or GAP SA's figures are highly inaccurate.

Because Greyhound Racing SA was established in such a way that it is the only state dog racing body immune to FOI, its statistics have been condemned by the RSPCA SA as unreliable.

Finally, euthanasia has decreased in FY21/22 from previous years³¹, but is still higher than most other jurisdictions (see GRSA data below), while an additional 258 greyhounds "were rehomed by participants, adopted out through other re-homing programs, or taken up by their owners (for breeding or as a pet)".³²

³⁰ [GRSA Annual report 21/22](#), p.32

³¹ [GRSA Annual report 21/22](#), p.15

³² Ibid

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update****Northern Territory**

There is no GAP NT and no rehoming data is published by the racing authorities.

Worse still, greyhound racing in the NT should have been suspended until reforms were in place to address the killing and drugging of greyhounds as exposed by the report on the Darwin Greyhound Association (DGA).

The [report](#) said injury and euthanasia rates in the Northern Territory are among the highest in the country (p74), while drug swabs return positive results almost four times higher than the next jurisdiction (p6). The report was produced by a law firm Hutton McCarthy for the NT Government.

As of July 2021, the NT Government passed its own deadline for the start of the NT's first greyhound racing industry rehoming scheme. The status of the scheme is unknown given the Gunner Government's refusal to provide evidence of progress to date.

The rehoming scheme is one of 60 recommendations to reform the NT dog racing industry listed in the Darwin Greyhound Association Report. The NT Government's website commits to implementing "all recommendations in the final report".

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Going forward – CPG recommendations

If the racing industry really cared about its greyhounds, there are many actions it could take to improve their welfare when it comes to rehoming.

Similarly, if politicians want answers to greyhound welfare issues, the following recommendations are practical and readily implemented.

1. Stop giving retired greyhounds to facilities where they will be experimented upon, or used for dissection and terminal blood donation.

The racing industry in each state could adopt this policy immediately if it wished and penalise participants who persist with the practice. (While NSW has recently announced such a policy, how it will be enforced remains to be seen.)

2. Introduce breeding caps, so excess breeding is no longer allowed.

This will need to be done by state governments, as Greyhounds Australasia (the dog racing industry's peak body) has clearly shown that it is unable to broker such an outcome.

3. State governments must stop giving taxpayers' money to the dog racing industry and instead put it towards greyhound rehoming.

Research on taxpayers' views shows that Australians do not support public money being used to subsidise dog racing. Politicians must listen to what voters have to say on this issue.

Instead, state governments should use betting revenue to fund a) community greyhound rescue groups, and, b) private sanctuaries for dogs which after rehabilitation are deemed ill-suited to rehoming.

Going forward, each GAP must fund a rehoming place for every greyhound whelped in its state.

4. Introduce zero euthanasia, i.e., a proper effort must be made to rehome ex-racers, rather than just 'ticking boxes' on lightweight rehoming policies, so that healthy dogs can 'legally' be put down.

GAPs must stop euthanising and make an effort - as do the community rescue groups - to rehabilitate unsocialised and/or traumatised ex-racers.

Also, safety measures should be put in place to stop loopholes such as 'rehome-to-euthanise' schemes, i.e., when third party rehoming by industry participants to a 'mate' is used as a way to have a dog killed.

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5. Introduce an enforceable rehoming policy in Queensland for the first time, and, South Australia's current lightweight statement of intent needs to become a formal rehoming policy 'with teeth'.

In Queensland, this will need to be done by the industry regulator, QRIC. In South Australia, this will need to be done by a new independent regulator (following the Ashton inquiry), as it's clear that GRSA is incapable of reforming itself.

6. Introduce transparent monitoring of each jurisdiction's rehoming policy, as well as financial penalties for failure to satisfy rehoming requirements, instead of the current absence of punitive action.

This can only be entrusted to government regulators where they exist (in NSW and Queensland).

7. Relevant authorities – whether industry or government [regulators](#) – must enforce socialisation requirements³³ by way of checks during kennel inspections. This would greatly reduce the rehoming burden for both community rescue groups and for the GAPs.

This could be readily achieved by inspectors testing greyhounds at each facility visited to ensure they are comfortable with a stranger, can use stairs, can walk on a variety of different surfaces, can tolerate the presence of a non-greyhound dog, etc.

Where industry participants have failed to socialise their greyhounds to these experiences needed to ensure successful rehoming, they should be penalised. Transparent reporting of both infractions and monitoring is needed in order to implement this change.

8. All greyhounds retired to industry participants across Australia should be subject to at least annual inspection by relevant authorities to ensure both proof of life and quality of life. Currently, this only occurs in NSW.

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Table 1: Australia - National rehoming data - 2021/22`

| | GAP | Community rehoming | Dogs at risk rehomed directly by trainers to third parties³⁴ | Retained by industry for breeding or as a pet³⁵ | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--|---|--------------|
| NSW | 301 | 365 | 245 | 302 | 1,213 |
| QLD | 259 | 246 | 154 | 339 | 1,006 |
| SA³⁶ | 489 ³⁷ | 214 | Not provided | Not provided | 703 |
| TAS | 81 | 138 | Not provided | Not provided | 219 |
| VIC³⁸ | 1,094 ³⁹ | 1,862 | Not provided | Not provided | 2,956 |
| WA⁴⁰ | 331 | 223 | 115 | 11 | 680 |
| Total | 2,555 | 3,048* | 514 | 652 | 6,777 |

Note - The NT Government provides no data and the ACT has banned dog racing. The data in this table has been collated from the following state tables which include footnotes for each data source.

*This includes the 'other' category from SA, which does not provide a more detailed breakdown.

³⁴ The RSPCA does not recommend third party rehoming because dogs can end up in fighting rings, can be abandoned and end up in pounds.

³⁵ While a small number will enjoy life as a pet, industry codes allow this category of greyhound to be caged for up to 23 out of every 24 hours for the rest of their lives.

³⁶ The SA Government allows GRSA to self-regulate, but the RSPCA [says](#) - "In some jurisdictions the Greyhound Racing industry is still overseen by the Greyhound Racing Authority who is responsible for both the regulation of the industry and its commercial development, promotion and marketing. This self-regulatory model fails to ensure that the welfare of greyhounds is prioritised and can lead to serious conflicts of interest, such as the use of financial incentives to promote greyhound breeding which in turn increase wastage rates. There is also still a lack of enforceable greyhound specific animal welfare standards in some jurisdictions...There is also a lack of effective oversight of the life cycle and post-racing outcomes for greyhounds, which can result in an inability to verify the status and whereabouts of greyhounds and, consequently, a lack of transparency, data that is not reliable and uncertainty about the fate of greyhounds who leave the industry."

³⁷ Greyhound Racing SA's data is highly suspect because a) RSPCA SA has publicly criticised GRSA for its inaccurate welfare data, and, b) it is claiming a rehoming rate via its GAP that is way beyond that achieved by any other GAP, yet GRSA's GAP has a much smaller budget than the big racing states of NSW and Victoria.

³⁸ See RSPCA view about self-regulation above.

³⁹ GRV's GAP data is highly suspect because a) it refuses to provide a breakdown of rehoming done by the industry participants and b) greyhounds retained by industry participants. This is because GRV has been allowed to self-regulate by the Victorian Government.

⁴⁰ Ditto.

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Table 3: GAP vs community-run rehoming - for each jurisdiction

NSW

| Year | Industry rehoming | | | | Community rehoming | Total |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | GAP | Dogs at risk rehomed directly by trainers to unidentified third parties* | Retained by industry for breeding or as a pet** | Sub-total | | |
| 2021/22 | 301 | 245 | 302 ³⁴ | 848 | 365 ³⁵ | 1213 |
| 2020/21 | 339 | 229 | 403 ³⁶ | 971 | 447 ³⁷ | 1418 |
| 2019/20 | 246 | 239 | 547 ³⁸ | 1032 | 373 ³⁹ | 1405 |
| 2018/19 | 249 | 285 | 517 ⁴⁰ | 1051 | 390 ⁴¹ | 1441 |
| 2017/18 | Data not collected at this time | | | 415 ⁴² | 1395 ⁴³ | 1810 |
| 2016/17 | | | | 498 ⁴⁴ | Data not collected | |
| 2015/16 | | | | 324 ⁴⁵ | | |

³⁴ GWIC 2021/22 [Annual report](#), p. 28

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ GWIC 2020/21 [Annual report](#), p. 28.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ GWIC 2019/20 [Annual report](#), p. 47.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid., p. 43.

Note - GRNSW says in its 2019 [Annual report](#) (p. 9) that it assisted with 729 adoptions, but provides no verifying details about the small amount of funds paid to non-industry rescues. The NSW Government's [discussion paper](#) for the review of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* makes a major error by listing the figure of 729 as homed by GAP itself (p20)

Note - GRNSW's annual giveaway day was suspended due to COVID for 2020.

⁴¹ GWIC 2018/19 [Annual report](#), p43 (see footnote 1 in the report).

⁴² GRNSW 2018 [Annual report](#), p. 10. Note - this includes 41 given away in one day at Wentworth Park and no home check was done, as is done by non-industry rescues regarding the suitability of household, height of fences, etc. CPG checked this via email with the GAP program. GAP budget - p8, GRNSW 2018 Annual Report, \$1,639,430 spent in 2018 on re-homing (2017: \$1,189,609).

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ GRNSW 2017 [Annual report](#), p. 6.

⁴⁵ GRNSW 2016 [Annual report](#), p. 8.

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QLD

| Year | Industry rehoming | | | | Retired for breeding | Community rehoming | Total |
|----------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| | GAP | Rehomed directly by trainers to third parties | Retained | Sub-total | | | |
| 2021/22 | 259 ⁴⁶ | 154 ⁴⁷ | 292 ⁴⁸ | 705 | 47 ⁴⁹ | 246 ⁵⁰ | 998 |
| 2020/21 | 228 | 178 | 235 ⁵¹ | 641 | 235 | 201 ⁵² | 842 |
| 2019/20 | 173 | 137 | 134 ⁵³ | 444 | Not avail. | 90 ⁵⁴ | 534 |
| 2018/19 | 239 ⁵⁵ | Data not collected at this time | | | | 67 ⁵⁶ | 306 |
| 2017/18 | 223 ⁵⁷ | | | | | No info in the annual report | - |
| 2016/17 | 318 ⁵⁸ | | | | | No info in the annual report | - |
| 2015/16 | 230 ⁵⁹ | | | | | No info in the annual report | - |

***Note - QRIC also provides data on greyhounds given to labs, research facilities, etc., in a category named - Surrendered to other agency. In 2021/22, 196 greyhounds fell into this grim category.

⁴⁶ QRIC [Annual report](#), 2021-22 p. 11 - note, this number is reported as 267 but 14 were returned and their fate is not listed.

⁴⁷ QRIC's [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Quarterly report April-June 2022](#), p. 8.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ QRIC's [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Quarterly report April-June 21](#), p9. Also, QRIC [annual report](#), p. 11 - note, this number is reported as 228 but 4 were returned and their fate is not listed.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ QRIC's [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Quarterly report April 20 - June 2020](#), p9. Also, QRIC [Annual report](#), 2019-2020p. 18 - note, this number is reported as 240 but 15 were returned and their fate is not listed.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ QRIC's [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Quarterly report April-June 1919](#), p8. NB - in this report 239 were reported as having been retired to GAP and then 30 euthanised due to health or behavioural issues.

⁵⁶ This figure includes retired to other adoption programs only [QRIC injury report 2018-19](#), p. 8.

⁵⁷ QRIC 2017-18 [Annual report](#), p. 6.

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SA

| Year | Industry rehoming - GAP* | Other rehoming* | Total |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| 2021/22 | 489 ⁶⁹ | 214 ⁷⁰ | 703 |
| 2020/21 | 403 ⁷¹ | 263 ⁷² | 666 |
| 2019/20 | 358 ⁷³ | 227 ⁷⁴ | 585 |
| 2018/19 | 344 ⁷⁵ | N/A ⁷⁶ | 344 |
| 2017/18 | 389 ⁷⁷ | Data not collected at this time | |
| 2016/17 | 430 ⁷⁸ | | |
| 2015/16 | 307 ⁷⁹ | 332 ⁸⁰ | 639 |

* GRSA's lack of data transparency has been [condemned](#) by the RSPCA.

⁶⁹ GRSA [Annual report](#) 2021/22, p. 15.

⁷⁰ Ibid. The figure of 214 here includes "rehomed by participants, adopted out through other rehoming programs or taken up by their owners (either for breeding or as a pet)". Unfortunately, a more detailed breakdown is not available from GRSA which is not subject to FOI.

⁷¹ GRSA [Annual report](#) 2020/21, p. 13.

⁷² Ibid., p 13. Per the report, this figure includes rehomed by participants, adopted out through other rehoming programs or taken up by their owners (either for breeding or as a pet). Unfortunately, a more detailed breakdown is not available from GRSA which is not subject to FOI.

⁷³ GRSA [Annual report](#) 2019/20, p. 15.

⁷⁴ Ibid., p 12. Per the report, this figure includes rehomed by participants, adopted out through other rehoming programs or taken up by their owners (either for breeding or as a pet). Unfortunately, a more detailed breakdown is not available from GRSA which is not subject to FOI.

⁷⁵ GRSA [Annual report](#) 2018, p. 14.

⁷⁶ 721 greyhounds retired and all are apparently accounted for by industry rehoming/retaining or euthanasia in the GRSA report (p 17). However, this is extremely doubtful and the RSPCA has publicly slammed GRSA for the lack of transparency on two occasions.

⁷⁷ GRSA [Annual report](#) 2018, p. 10.

⁷⁸ GRSA [Annual report](#) 2016-17, p. 11.

⁷⁹ GRSA [Annual report](#) 2015-16, p. 3.

⁸⁰ Ibid., p12. NB - This number includes those retired for breeding purposes, rehomed through external agencies or industry participants.

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VIC

| Year | Industry rehoming - GAP | Community rehoming | Total |
|----------------|--|---------------------|--|
| 2021/22 | 1,094 ⁴¹ | 1,862 ⁴² | 2,956 |
| 2020/21 | 951 ⁴³ | 2,032 ⁴⁴ | 2,983 |
| 2019/20 | 1,000 ⁴⁵ | 1,542 ⁴⁶ | 2,542 |
| 2018/19 | 987 | 1,644 | 2,631 ⁴⁷ |
| 2017/18 | 1,163 | 1,415 | 2,578 |
| 2016/17 | 1,314 (<i>this number and the one for 2015/16 in the line below were inflated due to documented double-counting</i>) ⁴⁸ | 1,483 | 2,797 |
| 2015/16 | 798 (<i>not reliable - see line above</i>) | 961 | 1,759 (3,012 were euthanised in this year) ⁴⁹ |

Note - GRV's data transparency is extremely poor despite the fact that it is a 'non budgeted government entity'. It obtains its funds from the following four main sources:

1. Vic TAB Joint Venture Revenue Racefields Fees
2. Vision Rights Fees
3. Point of Consumption Tax (PoCT)
4. Contributions from the state government's Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF).

In fact, unlike the two other large racing states of NSW and Queensland, GRV has been allowed to self-regulate by the Victorian Government. Because of this, it actively obscures the fact that its GAP rehomes far fewer greyhounds than its fabricated data suggests. It does this by taking credit for the rehoming done by:

- industry participants to unidentified third parties,
- dogs retained by participants (either for breeding or other purposes).

⁴¹ GRV [Annual report](#) 2021-22, p. 9

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ GRV [Annual report](#) 2020-21, p. 19.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ GRV [Annual report](#) 2019-20, p. 18.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ All figures for Vic obtained from GRV [Annual report](#) 2018-19, p. 18.

⁴⁸ [Greyhound Safety Net](#) - "Because the muzzling exemption is only available to greyhounds adopted under contract with GRV, greyhounds adopted out by other groups but subsequently tested by GAP for the green collar [were] counted as GAP adoptions" - p 2, (2015) . Also see - AJP [media release](#) (Greyhound Racing Victoria GAP Figures "Questionable") and Herald-Sun [article](#), (2016).

⁴⁹ GRV [Annual report](#) 2015-16, p. 12.

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TAS

| Year | Industry rehoming - GAP | Community rehoming | Total |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2021/22 | 81 ⁵⁰ | 138 | 219 ⁵¹ |
| 2020/21 | 98 ⁵² | 161 ⁵³ | 259 |
| 2019/20 | 138 ⁵⁴ | 95 ⁵⁵ | 233 |
| 2018/19 | 89 ⁵⁶ | 128 ⁵⁷ | 217 |
| 2017/18 | 102 ⁵⁸ | 110 ⁵⁹ | 212 ⁶⁰ |
| 2016/17 | 111 ⁶¹ | 163 | 274 ⁶² |
| 2015/16 | 85 ⁶³ | Data not collected at this time | - |
| 2014/15 | 63 ⁶⁴ | | - |
| 2013/14 | 35 ⁶⁵ | | - |

⁵⁰ Tasracing [Annual report](#) 2022, p. 15.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 16.

⁵² Tasracing [Annual report](#) 2021, p. 15.

⁵³ Ibid., p. 16.

⁵⁴ Tasracing [Annual report](#) 2020, p. 8.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ This was inaccurately reported as 96 in the 2019 annual report.

⁵⁷ The actual figure may be slightly less if GAP rehomed greyhounds in the final two weeks of the FY.

⁵⁸ NB: 102 is the total reported on Tasracing's [website](#) (14 June 2019), but 116 is the total reported in Tasracing's [Annual Report](#) 2018, p. 8.

⁵⁹ The number rehomed by non-GAP organisations in 2016/17 and 2017/18 was determined by deducting the total rehomed (stated in the Annual Report 2019) from those specifically identified as rehomed by GAP (stated in the Annual Report 2018).

⁶⁰ Tasracing Annual Report 2019, p. 9.

⁶¹ Tasracing Annual Report 2018, op. cit., p. 8.

⁶² Tasracing Annual Report 2019, op. cit., p. 9.

⁶³ Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2016, p. 30.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2015, p. 19.

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WA

In 2021-2022, of the 721 greyhounds that retired from racing, GAP was responsible for rehoming 331 greyhounds (46 per cent). In total, 223 greyhounds (31 percent) were rehomed through other greyhound rehoming organisations. The remaining greyhounds were adopted as pets to a third party directly from the trainer (16 percent), the trainer/owner kept the greyhound as a pet (1 percent) or was retired for breeding (6 percent). In total, the greyhound racing industry was responsible for rehoming 69 per cent of retired greyhounds over the past financial year - [Letter](#) from WA Minister for Racing Reece Whitby to Free the Hounds, 7 March 2023.

| Year | Industry rehoming | | | | Community rehoming | Total |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | GAP | Retained | Third party | Retired for breeding | | |
| 2021/22 | 331 | ~7 | ~116 | ~43 | 224 ⁸¹ | 721 |
| 2020/21 | 355 | Data unavailable | | | 217 ⁸³ | 572 |
| 2019/20 | 350 | | | | 184 ⁸⁵ | 534 |
| 2018/19 | 203 | | | | 190 ⁸⁷ | 393 |
| 2017/18 | 270 | | | | 225 ⁸⁹ | 495 |
| 2016/17 | 245 | | | | 331 ⁹¹ | 576 |
| 2015/16 | 121 | | | | 260 ⁹³ | 381 |

⁸¹ RWWA's [Annual report](#) 2022, p. 36.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ RWWA's [Annual report](#) 2021, p. 37.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ RWWA's [Annual report](#) 2020, p. 40.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ RWWA's [Annual report](#) 2019, p. 34.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ RWWA's [Annual report](#) 2017, p. 30.

⁹² Ibid.

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NT - No data published by the Territory government or by the only commercial dog racing body in the jurisdiction, the Darwin Greyhound Association.

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Appendix 1 - Obligations on industry participants to rehome ex-racing greyhounds

This table summarises the obligations (if any) imposed on racers to rehome ex-racing greyhounds in Australian states and territories (excluding the ACT). It ranks the jurisdictions from 1 to 7 (excluding the ACT) (best to worst protections afforded to greyhounds). While any regulatory requirement can look good 'on paper', it's another matter altogether as to whether requirements are enforced.

The table below also uses traffic light shading to categorise each jurisdiction as follows:

- **Green** = strong protections and there are consequences if the owner does not comply, but further research is required to determine to what extent infractions are penalised.
- **Yellow** = there are protections, but there are few or no consequences for failing to comply.
- **Red** = there is no protection.

| Ranking | State or territory | What effort (if any) does an owner have to make to rehome an ex-racer before putting the dog down? | What are the consequences if the owner fails to comply with the law? | Relevant legislation |
|---------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 | Western Australia | <p>There is a Rule that a person must rehome the dog or have it humanely euthanised (Rule 22). Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWAA) have provided further guidance on interpreting this Rule under 'L22' of the Rules.</p> <p>L22 provides that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The greyhound may be euthanised where it is seriously ill or injured or is assessed by a vet as unsuitable for rehoming on medical or behavioural grounds. • Otherwise, the greyhound must be assessed by the Greyhounds As Pets (RWWA GAP) program within 14 days of the greyhound's last start in an event. • Where RWWA has assessed the greyhound for being suitable for | <p>L22 provides that an owner who, in the opinion of the Stewards, fails to comply with any provision of this rule shall be guilty of an offence and liable to penalty in accordance with Rule 174.</p> <p>This means that the Controlling Body or Stewards may issue the Owner with one or a combination of the following penalties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reprimand; • a fine; • suspension; • disqualification; • cancellation of a registration or a licence; or • a warning. | <p>The Rules of Greyhound Racing 2022 (here) are made pursuant to section 45 of the <i>Racing and Wagering Western Australia Act 2003</i> (WA) (here)</p> |

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| Ranking | State or territory | What effort (if any) does an owner have to make to rehome an ex-racer before putting the dog down? | What are the consequences if the owner fails to comply with the law? | Relevant legislation |
|----------|--------------------|--|---|---|
| | | rehoming, the last registered person responsible for the greyhound must <u>to the satisfaction of the Stewards</u> , seek to rehome the greyhound with the RWWA GAP program and to at least one other re-homing provider. | | |
| 2 | Tasmania | <p>An owner must make all reasonable efforts to avoid euthanasia of their greyhound by finding it a suitable long-term home. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notifying the Director of Tasracing Pty Ltd (Director) at the commencement of the wind down period. The wind down period is 28 days where the greyhound does not race and the owner keeps a record of efforts to socialise the greyhound in non-racing environments; and at the end of the wind down period, make at least one genuine attempt of each of the following (unless it is successful at one of these immediately): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> seek the greyhound's admission to the Greyhound Adoption Program of Tasmania; | <p>If a person contravenes these Rules, the Controlling Body or the Stewards may issue one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reprimand (warning or caution) A fine (not exceeding 200 penalty units. 1 penalty unit = \$181) Suspension Disqualification Cancellation of registration or a licence Warning off <p>Controlling Body is Tasracing or the Director. The Stewards is someone appointed by Tasracing or the Director.</p> | L22 of the Tasmanian Greyhound Rules of Racing made pursuant to <i>Racing (Tasracing Pty Ltd) Act 2009</i> (Tas). |

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| Ranking | State or territory | What effort (if any) does an owner have to make to rehome an ex-racer before putting the dog down? | What are the consequences if the owner fails to comply with the law? | Relevant legislation |
|---------|--------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seek to rehome the greyhound with at least two appropriate third parties who are capable of ensuring the welfare and well-being of the greyhound; and ○ Seek to rehome the greyhound through at least one other animal adoption or rehoming agency. <p>There are exceptions from the requirement to attempt to rehome the greyhound. This includes if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a vet certifies that the greyhound is suffering from an incurable condition or injury that causes significant pain or discomfort; ● the greyhound is required to be euthanised to comply with law (eg a court order); or ● If the GAP or another person approved by the Director reports that the greyhound is displaying significant behavioral characteristics that negatively impact its suitability as a pet. <p>An owner must make an application to the Director requesting permission to euthanise a greyhound. This</p> | | |

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| Ranking | State or territory | What effort (if any) does an owner have to make to rehome an ex-racer before putting the dog down? | What are the consequences if the owner fails to comply with the law? | Relevant legislation |
|----------|------------------------|--|---|---|
| | | must include details of the attempts to rehome the greyhound. | | |
| 3 | New South Wales | <p>Section 9 of the Code of Practice requires that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a greyhound owner does not wish to retain a greyhound, the owner must ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, that the greyhound is prepared for rehoming as a companion animal. The greyhound must be transferred to a person who is over 18 years of age. | <p>The Commission may take disciplinary action, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> suspending or canceling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the person's registration; the registration of a greyhound; the registration of a greyhound trial track; imposing a condition on the person's registration or on the registration of the greyhound or greyhound trial track; imposing a fine on the person not exceeding 200 penalty units; disqualifying or warning off the person; disqualifying a specified greyhound; prohibiting a person from participating in greyhound racing in any specified capacity; prohibiting a specified greyhound | <p>NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice (here) made pursuant to Division 2 of the <i>Greyhound Racing Act 2017 No 13</i> (NSW) (here)</p> |

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| Ranking | State or territory | What effort (if any) does an owner have to make to rehome an ex-racer before putting the dog down? | What are the consequences if the owner fails to comply with the law? | Relevant legislation |
|----------|--------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | <p>from competing on any greyhound race or trial; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> such other action as specified in the rules. | |
| 4 | Northern Territory | <p>Section 5.9 of the Policy states that all greyhounds being retired must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehomed to a suitable home following the health and temperament of the greyhound being assessed as suitable for rehoming; Rehomed through an approved greyhound rehoming group (where in existence) and which has been approved by the Commission as a group that can rehome retired greyhounds; or Kept as a pet; or euthanised by a veterinarian, only where the veterinarian certifies in writing to the Commission that such euthanasia is recommended due to the health or behavioral problems or when an acceptable home cannot be found. <p>Greyhounds being rehomed to the public must be sterilized prior to moving to their new home. The Owner must keep records of unsuccessful rehoming attempts, including the persons/agencies</p> | <p>The Policy and <i>Racing and Betting Act 1983 (Act)</i> do not specify what happens if an owner breaches section 5.9 and fails to take steps to rehome the greyhound.</p> <p>Under the Act, the Commission has a general obligation to supervise the activities of greyhound racing clubs and can suspend or prohibit an owner from participating in greyhound racing (see section 57(2)). It is possible that the Commission would suspend or prohibit an owner from racing if they breached the policy, however there is no express requirement for the Commission to do so.</p> | <p>The Northern Territory Racing Commission has made a 'Policy for the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds' (here) pursuant to section 56(2) of the <i>Racing and Betting Act 1983 (NT)</i> (here). The Act allows the Commission to initiate, develop and implement such policies as it considers conducive to the development and welfare of the greyhound racing industry and the protection of the public interest.</p> |

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| Ranking | State or territory | What effort (if any) does an owner have to make to rehome an ex-racer before putting the dog down? | What are the consequences if the owner fails to comply with the law? | Relevant legislation |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| | | contacted, and must be presented to the Commission or Stewards upon request. | | |
| <u>5</u> | Victoria | <p>Rule 12 of the GRV rules requires that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> when a greyhound is no longer utilised for racing or breeding, the owner must make every effort to rehome that greyhound to an appropriate home. An owner must keep detailed records of their effort to rehome the greyhound and provide evidence and records of those efforts to the Controlling Body. The owner does not have to rehome a greyhound if it has a serious health condition, a serious behavioral condition that constitutes a danger to humans or aggression to dogs, or a legal direction. <p>If an owner cannot find an appropriate home, it must use the prescribed form to notify the Controlling Body of its intention to euthanise the dog.</p> <p>There are no requirements for how long the Owner needs to try rehome the dog. The Owner only needs to give the Controlling Body the notice to euthanise 7 days before the euthanasia.</p> | The Controlling Body can disqualify, warn off or suspend any owner who does not comply with these rules. | The GRV Local Rules (here) are made pursuant to section 82 of the <i>Racing Act 1958</i> (Vic). It is up to the GRV Board to supervise and enforce compliance with these Rules. |

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| Ranking | State or territory | What effort (if any) does an owner have to make to rehome an ex-racer before putting the dog down? | What are the consequences if the owner fails to comply with the law? | Relevant legislation |
|----------|------------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| <u>6</u> | South Australia | <p>There is no legal obligation on owners to rehome greyhounds. The Greyhound Racing SA (GRSA) Animal Welfare Policy (here) provides that:</p> <p><i>GRSA remains unconditionally opposed to the notion that animal cruelty can ever be an acceptable outcome associated with the training of greyhounds. Additionally, GRSA embraces a fundamental obligation to rehome unraced and retired greyhounds.</i></p> <p>This has no legal effect - it is just a statement of intention.</p> | N/A | N/A |
| <u>7</u> | Qld | <p>There is no requirement in Queensland for the owner to rehome the dog. CPG has previously received an email from the QRIC confirming that there is no obligation to try rehome the dog.</p> | N/A | N/A |