



Request for Research Proposals

Statement of Project Requirements

Contract Name:	Investigating 'chase motivation' in the greyhound
RFQ Number:	GRNSW271115B
Location:	Rhodes, NSW

1. Project Title

Investigating 'chase motivation' in the greyhound.

2. Project Manager

Name: Mr D. Thomas

Position: Senior Policy Advisor

Address: Building B, 1 Homebush Bay Drive Rhodes NSW 2138

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Email: grnswpolicy@grnsw.com.au

3. Project Context

Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**) is a body corporate established by the *Greyhound Racing Act 2009* as the independent controlling body for greyhound racing in this State. GRNSW is charged with providing strategic direction and leadership in the development, integrity and welfare of greyhound racing in NSW. It is the peak body of the sport and is responsible for ensuring the competitiveness and long-term commercial viability of greyhound racing for the benefit of participants, business partners and the community.

The NSW Government is currently examining the greyhound racing industry in NSW including animal welfare standards, integrity issues and the management and governance arrangements of GRNSW.

Several research priorities have been identified to better inform evidence based animal welfare policy, direct best practice greyhound training and management and address the health and longevity of racing greyhounds.

Apart from physical soundness, industry participants consider the most important trait in a greyhound 'keenness to chase' (Cobb et al, 2015). Despite the importance of the trait, willingness to chase is not well understood.

Although there is a breed predisposition for chase-proneness, some greyhounds appear to be internally poorly motivated to respond to a moving stimulus by chasing. There are welfare and economic implications associated with dogs that fail to chase as they may never be suitable for racing if they cannot be motivated and trained to do so.

Traditionally, the industry approach for these dogs has been to focus on lure types and design in an attempt to encourage chase. However, an evidence base is required to support the effectiveness of various training practices. It is also essential to identify the influence of other environmental factors, management practices and genetics on the expression of the 'chase' trait.

GRNSW is seeking research proposals from Australian universities and research institutions. GRNSW will award a grant of \$120 000 per year for 2 years to contribute to a post-doctoral fellow salary and on-costs.

4. *Project Objectives*

To characterise and investigate chase motivation in racing greyhounds.

The specific work required will:

- acquire the necessary ethics approval;
- consult with an industry stakeholders advisory committee;
- identify variables significantly associated with a greyhound's keenness to chase and failure to chase;
- examine the influence of early life experience, on-going learning and personality on chase proneness;
- characterise the role of motivation in chase behaviour;
- examine the role of different stimuli used to motivate chase, characterising whether stimuli act as motivators or rewards;
- make evidence-based recommendations on greyhound training techniques from rearing to racing including the use of salient stimuli; and
- create actionable insights for policy makers.

5. *Deliverables*

The work should be in the form of a written report (including any peer reviewed publications generated during the project) and involve a presentation of project findings to GRNSW, senior managers of interstate partner controlling bodies and Greyhounds Australasia.

6. *Resources & Collaboration*

- An industry participant advisory committee will be established for consultation.
- Member representative groups will assist in seeking volunteer trainers and greyhounds.
- GRNSW will assist with background information, database access, reports and other materials as required.

7. **Submission Process**

Submission timeline:

Task	Date
Submissions close	24 December 2015 at 5pm AEST
Project awarded (indicative)	8 January 2016
Contracts entered into and inception meeting (indicative)	The week commencing 11 January 2016

Submissions should:

- align with the project objectives of this request for research proposals;
- demonstrate the capability to address the project scope;
- demonstrate methodological rigour;
- provide an overview of previous experience;
- outline the expertise of personnel to be involved in the project;
- include a timeline with milestones;
- outline a budget and breakdown of costs required to complete the project;
- include any details pertaining to the ability to access or attract co-funding; and
- be submitted by email or delivered by hand to:

Name: Mr D. Thomas
Position: Senior Policy Advisor
Content Address: Building B, 1 Homebush Bay Drive
Rhodes NSW 2138
Tel: 02 8767 0533
Email: grnswpolicy@grnsw.com.au

The deadline for submissions is 24 December 2015 at 5pm (AEST)