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Greyhound Welfare
A GREYHOUND which won only on provincial tracks and faced an uncertain retirement has finally become a champion — giving a new lease of life to the residents of a nursing home.

From 2006 to 2008 Daisy Ross won nine times and filled 24 placings in 63 races at Dapto, Canberra and Goulburn. But when her owner-trainer Terry Kennedy required an operation he and his wife Marie had to find her new home.

Daisy Ross went into an adoption program, and was soon “working” at Illawarra Retirement Trust’s Macarthur House, an aged-care facility.

“I wanted an animal that was placid, didn’t jump up on people, had short hair and was sufficiently tall that the residents would not have to bend down to pat,” said Macarthur House’s recreation officer Christine Baker.

“She gives the residents a reason to leave their rooms,” she said.

“We have one resident who is quite deaf and doesn’t see too well and he used to remain in his room. Now he comes down to the courtyard and spends all day with Daisy,” she said.

Greyhound racers are trying to find homes for their “retirees” rather than put the dogs down.

Video of Daisy at dailytelegraph.com.au
Hosts are joined by Ben Fordham, Today Sports Presenter. Fordham says the Daily Telegraph and Herald Sun have picked up that when greyhounds are done racing head to nursing homes as pets. © Media Monitors 2011

Interviewees: Ben Fordham, Today Sports Presenter
Duration: 0:56
Summary ID: M00042446016

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relocation of the Tweed Racecourse to Murwillumbah could also increase the financial benefits to the local economy.

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**Interviewees:** John Schloten, Lismore **Greyhound Raceway**
**Duration:** 1:07
**Summary ID:** S00042443848

*This program or part thereof is syndicated to 1 station/s.*
NSW: NSW greyhound muzzle laws revised

SYDNEY, Feb 12 AAP - Non-racing greyhounds will no longer have to wear a muzzle once they complete an approved retraining program, the NSW government says.

The amendment was announced on Saturday to encourage the adoption of more ex-racing greyhounds, Local Government Minister Barbara Perry said on Saturday.

Many greyhounds are unable to find a home due to the muzzle requirement once their racing days are over.

The opposition and Australian Veterinary Association welcomed the move, which will bring NSW policy in line with Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT.

"The decision will mean that many more greyhounds will now be rescued and placed with families rather than facing death row at the end of their racing career," Ms Perry said in a statement.

Greyhound owners will still face tough dog control laws, even if their dog passes the suitability test, with greyhounds required to wear bright green collars in public.

Opposition intergovernmental relations spokesman Chris Hartcher said the exemption would give "a far better outcome" to greyhounds and their owners.

"Greyhound pets bring joy and happiness. They are affectionate and non-aggressive," Mr Hartcher said.

AAP ih/msk
Greyhounds’ muzzle off

NON-RACING greyhounds will no longer have to wear a muzzle once they complete an approved retraining program, the NSW Government says.

The amendment was announced yesterday to encourage adoption of more racing greyhounds.

Many racing greyhounds have been unable to find a home when their competitive days are over, because of the muzzle requirement.

The Opposition and Australian Veterinary Association welcomed the move, which will bring NSW policy in line with that of Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT.
The RSPCA’S hardest sell
This week we spotted that the RSPCA had a ‘discount’ on greyhounds. Why greyhounds, and not other breeds we wondered? We sent reporter Samantha Day to investigate.

GENTLE. Cuddly. Couch potato.
These aren’t words that are commonly used to describe greyhounds but according to RSPCA Yagoona shelter supervisor Donna Hough, they couldn’t be closer to the truth.

Greyhounds and greyhound cross-breeds are a common fixture at the RSPCA – many are surrendered due to lack of racing ability or after retirement from the race-course which leaves these gentle giants without a place to call home.

“People tend to think that greyhounds are racing dogs and not friendly dogs,” Ms Hough said. “It’s just not true. They are intelligent, tolerant and gentle companions but people are put off because of the muzzle.”

The NSW Companion Animals Act requires greyhounds to wear a muzzle unless on its owners premises. For Ms Hough, this law has created many misconceptions about the breed.

“The reason behind the muzzle isn’t because they are an aggressive dog. It stems from the fact that many greyhounds are trained from an early age to chase anything fluffy so they need to be muzzled in order not to run after things.”

Despite their fit appearance, greyhounds are not excessively active dogs and require, like most breeds, a walk or two per day. They enjoy lounging around inside on a comfy cushion and Ms Hough said it’s not uncommon for the greyhounds at the RSPCA shelter to bask on a blanket in the sunshine.

“They are known as couch potatoes for a reason. They really love to lie around, they love being inside and despite what people think they don’t have an abundance of energy like other larger breeds.”

Ms Hough said greyhounds make great pets for families and older pet owners – “they don’t weigh a lot so when you take them for a walk there’s not a heavy tug on the lead.”

Though greyhounds have moved up in the esteem of pet owners, they remain a hard sell for shelter supervisors at the RSPCA.

“They are beautiful, loyal and kind, and would make a great pet for a household,” Ms Hough said.

Greyhounds available for adoption at the RSPCA are behaviour assessed, desexed, microchipped, health checked, vaccinated and up to date on their flea and worming treatments. To find out more, visit adoptapet.com.au.

Cassie and Fred, waiting for new homes. Picture: PHIL ROGERS
**GREYHOUND MISCONCEPTIONS**

1. They're aggressive – greyhounds are patient dogs that are often used as therapy pets for aged care facilities.
2. They need loads of exercise – greyhounds are low-maintenance dogs that prefer to lounge around with their owners.
3. They eat a lot – the breed has a sensitive stomach and tend to snack lightly rather than eat huge meals.
4. They need a big backyard – greyhounds have a short, sleek coat which, combined with their temperament, makes them ideal as an indoor pet.
5. They're race dogs not household dogs – greyhounds are as suited to the race track as a loving home.
FORMER racing greyhound, Red, is looking for a home and comes highly recommended. The three-year-old is a handsome tall animal with a delightful nature, according to RSPCA care centre manager at Rouse Hill, Karen Heath. “Greyhounds are very sociable and loving and make beautiful pets,” she said. “Red, which needs a daily walk like other dogs, is laid back and loves to sleep a lot. “He is one of the many greyhounds who are handed over by owners once their racing careers are over, because for them, they are a part of a sport, and not a pet.”

Red is being offered at special price of $180, instead of the usual $300, until March 4. “Ideally, Red should be the only pet in the home and we usually speak to the new owners to find out if the pets are suited for them and vice versa,” Ms Heath said.

“We have had a great community response since we opened in Rouse Hill 14 months ago, with more than 500 animals being re-homed. “Money received for the pets and store products go directly back to the RSPCA to care for the other animals and pay for their surgeries and so on. We thank the community for their support.”

The care centre, which is open throughout the week, can be contacted on 8883 0622 or visit adoptapet.com.au
Muzzle changes may help greyhounds find a home

NON-RACING greyhounds will no longer have to wear a muzzle once they complete an approved retraining program under changes to NSW law aimed at encouraged adoption of more former racing dogs.

The changes announced last weekend follow the increase in numbers of greyhounds being adopted out rather than put down after their racing days, and the efforts of volunteer groups to find homes for the animals on “death row”.

Among those is Murwillumbah district woman Lisa White who has been working with Friends of the Hound to rehouse retired racing greyhounds in New South Wales and Queensland.

She has also spearheaded opposition to a new greyhound racing track at Murwillumbah telling Tweed Shire Council

"New laws could make for easier adoption of ex-race dogs."

outrage in the community was growing against the “massive number of dogs bred and subsequently destroyed” in the greyhound industry.

Announcing the relaxation of the rule forcing all greyhounds to wear muzzles, Local Government Minister Barbara Perry said it would help ex-racing dogs find new homes.

“The decision will mean that many more greyhounds will now be rescued and placed with families rather than facing death row at the end of their racing career,” Ms Perry said.

But greyhound owners will still face tough dog control laws, even if their dog passes the suitability test, with greyhounds required to wear bright green collars in public.
GREYHOUND Racing NSW (GRNSW) has welcomed the NSW Opposition’s policy announcement of muzzle exemptions for greyhounds that enter the Greyhounds As Pets program. As part of the policy announcement, the shadow minister for racing George Souris and the shadow minister of state Chris Hartcher said the exemption would be administered and regulated by GRNSW, providing for greyhounds to be tested by a person accredited by GRNSW. GRNSW chairman Professor Percy Allan AM said he was pleased with the response. The policy change will bring NSW into line with Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and ACT, where pet greyhounds have been able to go muzzle-free as long as they have been temperament tested and wear a prescribed collar to designate that they are an approved greyhound.
Riley discusses a move for greyhounds to be allowed to not wear their muzzles. Caller Jimmy says he has rescued two greyhounds, including one female breeding dog, who did not need rehabilitation. Jimmy discusses the dogs.

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Duration: 3:49
Summary ID: W00042547054
Non-racing greyhounds that complete an approved retraining program will soon no longer be forced to wear a muzzle when in public.

Minister for Local Government Barbara Perry said it was hoped the changes would avoid what has often been an uncertain future for these dogs.

“Greyhounds are often adopted out as family pets once their racing careers are over,” Ms Perry said.

“This amendment will hopefully encourage the adoption of many more ex-racing greyhounds who may have previously been unable to find a home due to the muzzling requirement.”

Australian Veterinary Association NSW welcomed the announcement, saying it will help avoid many greyhounds being put down when their racing careers are over.

NSW Division president elect Julia Crawford said the Australian Veterinary Association congratulated Ms Perry and her government on this decision.

“Like all dogs, greyhounds need supervision in public places but did not need to be singled out in such a fashion as the majority of them make gentle, wonderful pets,” Ms Crawford said.

“This decision will also mean that many more greyhounds will now be rescued and placed with families rather than facing death row at the end of their racing career.”

This amendment will also bring NSW into line with other jurisdictions including Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

“If the retraining program is approved and legitimate and the dog’s temperament has been appropriately tested and found to be suitable, it makes sense that the animal should not have to continue to wear a muzzle in public,” Ms Perry said.

“These are sensible changes that strike the right balance between responsible pet ownership and the safety of the community.”

Ms Perry said owners of greyhounds would still face tough dog control laws, even if their dog passed the suitability test.

“Owners of these greyhounds must adhere to NSW dog laws – the strongest in Australia. Fines for a breach of these laws can be up to $55,000 and/or two years in prison.

“Owners of any dog breed must ensure their dog is under their control at all times.

“Owners should also ensure their dog is properly socialised”.

There are 8381 greyhounds registered in NSW, which includes the 6595 racing greyhounds registered in 2009/10 by the Greyhound Racing NSW.

Guidelines that will set out the requirements for organisations wishing to become an approved greyhound retraining organisation will be issued by the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet following consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Greyhound Racing NSW.
Greyhounds to get a win off the track if laws pass

By Jodie Davies

THE muzzle may be on Digger the greyhound now, but hopefully not for much longer.

Local Government Minister Barbara Perry announced at the weekend that non-racing greyhounds would soon no longer be forced to wear a muzzle when in public if they first underwent an approved retraining program.

For owner and Tamworth Greyhound Racing Club president Lloyd Rock, the news has been welcomed with wide open arms because it means the dog breed may have increased luck in finding a home, before and after their career in racing.

His 14-month-old pup Digger is yet to embark on his racing debut, but will soon have the chance to play ball at the park before his time to shine.

“If this is approved, it would be brilliant,” he said.

“A lot of people have the wrong idea about greyhounds because they have to wear a muzzle outside. They are beautiful animals and make gentle pets, even for families with young children. I’m aware the muzzle had been enforced in public as a safety thing but it’s not necessary. Alsatian dogs don’t have to wear a muzzle, so why should greyhounds?”

Mr Rock is hopeful this dog law amendment will help promote the adoption of greyhounds as family pets once their racing careers are over, instead of them facing avoidable euthanasia.

“A lot of greyhounds go to homes as pets when they retire but some do face euthanasia. Trainers just can’t keep them all,” he said.

Guidelines that will set out the requirements for organisations wishing to become an approved greyhound retraining organisation will be issued by the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet following consultation with relevant stakeholders, including greyhound Racing NSW.

“Greyhounds adhere well to training. I think it will be very effective,” Mr Rock said.
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5. They’re race dogs, not household dogs: Greyhounds are as suited to a loving home as the racetrack

Cassie and Fred, waiting for new homes.

Picture: PHIL ROGERS

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Ref: 92413462
Pet of the week

Name: Monty
Breed: Male greyhound
Age: Three years 11 months
Details: Monty is a friendly, excitable and energetic male looking for a new home. He was surrendered to the RSPCA as his owners had too many dogs. Monty needs a home with an energetic family who has plenty of time for him. He must be supervised around small children as he can be a little jumpy when excited. Monty will require one to two daily walks to burn off his energy but once he’s been exercised he will happily laze around with his family watching television. Because of his breed he cannot go to a home with any small dogs. Monty is $180 to adopt as February is greyhound month and all greyhounds are $180 at the Yagoona shelter only. He is desexed, vaccinated, wormed and health tested.

Contact: 9770 7555
Greyhounds looking for homes

RSPCA NSW currently has a number of Greyhounds and Greyhound crossbreeds in its care. In an attempt to give these gentle giants a chance for a new life, the Sydney Shelter in Yagoona and RSPCA Care Centre at Rouse Hill is offering a reduced adoption fee on all Greyhounds and Greyhound crossbreeds until March 4, 2011.

"A lot of people have preconceived opinions about Greyhounds," RSPCA Sydney Shelter supervisor Andrew Lovie, said. "The breed is often misunderstood and suffers from negative stereotypes that make people less inclined to adopt them."

The truth is Greyhounds are extremely intelligent, brave and loyal dogs. Their sensitive, gentle and even-tempered nature makes them great pets. And despite their reserved demeanour, they bond quite strongly with their owners.

NSW law requires that Greyhounds be muzzled when they're in public areas. This leads people to wrongly assume that Greyhounds are mean, dangerous and prone to biting.

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