

GRNSW CODE OF PRACTICE – FOR THE KEEPING OF GREYHOUNDS IN TRAINING

Introduction

This Code of Practice has been developed for participants licensed by Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) involved in the activity of training greyhounds and for prospective new entrants to the industry.

The Code is designed to encourage a consistent approach that will:

- Provide for the welfare of greyhounds by specifying the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of greyhounds; and
- Enable industry members by adhering to this Code to demonstrate their concern and duty of care for the racing greyhound.

It is acknowledged that the specific needs of a greyhound vary throughout its lifecycle. Separate Codes of Practice will be available to define the requirements in the following areas including:

1. Breeding
2. Rearing
3. Education

The Code emphasises the importance of good management practices, pointing out that persons in charge of greyhounds have a legal liability under the *Greyhound Racing Rules, Greyhound Racing Act 2009 No19, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1979 and Clause 20 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2006*.

Under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*, the person in charge of an animal is responsible for meeting the legal obligations of an animal's welfare. The person in charge may be the owner or the licensed trainer who has the care and control of the greyhound.

Greyhound trainers should be familiar with their responsibilities under the relevant rules, legislation and local government ordinances. The responsibility for compliance at all times rests with the trainer and GRNSW will not be held responsible for any omissions or non compliance.

Prior to the construction of any kennel facility trainers are advised to first consult with their local council in relation to any requirements for the keeping of dogs or construction of kennels in their local council area.

This Code applies to all new and existing training or kennel facilities. However, current registered kennels will be exempt from Section 2.2 of this Code.

The overriding theme of this Code is that the well being of the greyhound must at all times be considered above the demands of owners, breeders, trainers, sponsors, officials or spectators.

Prior to seeking to have their kennels approved – new applicants and existing licensed persons need to determine:

- The number of greyhounds to be kept, the type, construction and finishes of kennels and any local government restrictions;
- The intended purpose of the kennels e.g. racing, rearing or breeding;
- The distance of all kennel facilities to boundaries and dwellings on adjoining properties;
- Provision for noise and odour abatement;
- Provision for the management and disposal of solid/liquid wastes and water runoff.

The basic needs of greyhounds are:

- Readily accessible food and water in sufficient quantities to maintain health and vigour;
- Freedom of movement to stand, stretch and lie down;
- Regular exercise;
- Shelter and accommodation that provides protection from the elements;
- Protection from disease, and regular inspections to assess the need for attention to feet, teeth:
- Internal and external parasite control; and
- Rapid identification and treatment of injury and disease.

Guiding Principles - General Housing Standards for Greyhounds

Objective

The accommodation and environment of greyhounds in training should be of a standard which ensures their security, safety and wellbeing.

Standards

The location of kennels should be away from sources of noise or pollution that could cause injury or stress to the greyhound and out of areas that are prone to flooding and/or bushfires.

- i. Vehicles, caravans, trailers, portable crates or the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used for accommodation for greyhounds.
- ii. Designated kennels must be designed and constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that provides for good health and well being of greyhounds, which prevents the transmission of infectious disease agents, the escape of greyhounds and does not cause injury risk to either greyhounds or humans.
- iii. Kennels constructed should be compliant with local government (council) regulations.
- iv. Greyhounds must be provided with protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse weather conditions and must be provided with a clean and dry dedicated sleeping area, with flooring to be of fixed construction or concrete.
- v. Greyhounds must not be in extended contact with wet floors.

- vi. All sleeping areas for greyhounds must have clean, hygienic, dry bedding sufficient to insulate them from the floor.
- vii. Greyhounds must at all times have access to clean water and be fed daily.
- viii. Measures should be in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth, i.e. returf, concrete or suitable animal flooring.
- ix. Adequate fencing must exist to prevent escape of greyhounds and to provide a secure environment for their accommodation and training whilst minimising the impact on surrounding properties.
- x. Kennels should be connected to a sewer or on a septic system in accordance with the requirement of the local government or relevant authority; or have some other adequate and acceptable method of disposal of faeces and other liquid waste.
- xi. Measures should be in place to ensure access to ongoing veterinary care for treatment of greyhounds. Trainers must also ensure that immediate veterinary care is provided for sick or injured greyhounds, to relieve pain, suffering and distress.

1. Kennel Construction

- 1.1 Kennels (sleeping areas and run) must provide adequate protection from rain, wind and provide protection from extremes of temperature. Adequate shade and ventilation must be provided to maintain the health of greyhounds - while minimising undue draughts, odours and moisture condensation - constructed to ensure that there is no risk of physical harm to the greyhound or the trainer.
- 1.2 Outdoor kennels must be partially enclosed to provide sheltered sleeping areas.
- 1.3 Kennels should be high enough to permit ease of maintenance and cleaning by an adult.
- 1.4 Where kennels are indoors the environment should be controlled to ensure the comfort of the greyhound, inclusive of indoors temperature, humidity and appropriate ventilation. Lighting should be as close as possible in duration and intensity to natural conditions.
- 1.5 All greyhounds should be provided with raised wooden sleeping boards, dog houses or trampoline-style beds.
- 1.6 Kennels should be easily cleanable and well drained.

2. Kennel Size

- 2.1 Kennel areas should provide at least enough space for each animal to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about.
- 2.2 Kennels for adult dogs, including sleeping quarters and runs, should meet the following requirements:

Racing Kennel – Minimum size = 3 sq.m (e.g 2m x 1.5m)

A kennel enclosure for housing a single greyhound in race training, generally situated within a secure building and designed to encourage the greyhound to rest.

Fencing should be appropriately constructed and well maintained fencing mesh being 1.8m high on a concrete or fixed base.

Posts may be steel and/or wood. Fencing should be strained as appropriate to ensure the security of the greyhound.

Day / Spelling Yard – Minimum size not less than 6sq.m

(if provided) A wire mesh enclosed space and often with an associated kennel, where a single greyhound may spend short periods of time recuperating outdoors.

Fencing should be a minimum of 1.7m and further 0.1m should be buried into the ground to prevent digging and escape.

Provision for shade either natural or a permanent structure must be provided.

Exercise Yard – (if provided) A series of two or more fenced enclosures used to exercise greyhounds adjacent to each other. Each yard is generally 30 to 50m in length and 3 to 4 m wide but may vary in shape dependent on site characteristics.

Fencing should be a minimum of 1.2m high. Consideration should be given for shading to be provided if greyhounds are to be exposed for an extended period of time.

3. Environment

- 3.1 Greyhounds must be protected from extremes of temperature and trainers should be aware and comply with GRNSW's Hot Weather Guidelines.
- 3.2 The duration and intensity of artificial lighting, where used, must be as close as possible to natural conditions. Greyhounds must be protected from excessive light which is generated from an external source.
- 3.3 Measures should be in place to reduce the impact of sudden noise.
- 3.4 Noise from barking dogs should be managed to comply with local government noise regulation and to minimise impact on neighbours.

- Liberal use of sound proofing or suitable construction materials that reduce noise.
- Care with greyhound placement to avoid unnecessary arousal
- Limiting external stimulation, e.g. partitioning dog housing as required.
- Taking care to exercise greyhounds away from kennelled greyhounds.

4. Security Standards

- 4.1 The kennel facility must be reasonably secure to prevent access by unauthorised people.
- 4.2 Each kennel must be fitted with a secure closing devise that cannot be opened by greyhounds with double barriers (a secure area outside the immediate kennels) recommended to prevent the escape of greyhounds.
- 4.3 Provision for fire fighting equipment must be readily available and an emergency exit plan as required.
- 4.4 All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or use, must be kept secure and out of reach of greyhounds.
- 4.5 Prescribed veterinary products should be kept secure with all treatments administered recorded for each greyhound.

5. Hygiene

- 5.1 Faeces and urine should be removed at least once a day from kennels and exercise areas, with faeces disposed of in a hygienic manner.
- 5.2 Kennel enclosures should be disinfected at least once a week with practices in place to minimise odour from kennels.
- 5.3 Exercise areas must be cleaned daily.
- 5.4 Food preparation and storage areas must be maintained in a hygienic standard.
- 5.5 Collection drains must be cleaned daily.
- 5.6 Any cleaning and disinfecting agents should be chosen on the basis of suitability, safety and effectiveness. Manufacturer's instructions for the use of these agents should be followed as too concentrated a solution may be toxic to animals.

6. Vermin Control

- 6.1 Effort must be made to effectively control pests, including flies, fleas, mosquitoes and rodents.
- 6.2 Chemicals used for vermin control must be registered under relevant

Commonwealth and NSW agriculture and veterinary chemicals legislation as highlighted on the labels, and used only in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

7. Nutrition

- 7.1 Dogs should be provided with adequate amounts of good quality food and fresh clean drinking water daily to maintain optimal health at all times.
- 7.2 Adult greyhounds must be fed daily and all food should be stored in a secure hygienic area.
- 7.3 Food should be presented in appropriate containers, i.e. non-chewable and nonspillable. They should also be cleaned at least once a day.
- 7.4 Uneaten food should be removed and disposed of daily so that it does not spoil or attract vermin.

8. Exercise

- 8.1 Dogs must have the opportunity once or twice a day for exercise to:
 - Allow them to be checked over;
 - Allow them to stretch their limbs; and
 - Give them contact with humans.
- 8.2 Exercise can be provided by walking dogs on a lead for a minimum of 30 minutes once daily or 15 minutes twice daily. Very active, very old or injured dogs may require more or less exercise than the above.
- 8.3 If the dog is not being raced it should be given an opportunity to be exercised in a suitable training area.
- 8.4 A walking machine can be used to assist in exercising greyhounds, but should not be seen as a replacement for external walking and environmental stimulation.

9. Disease and ill Health

Disease, ill health or stress may be observed in greyhounds in a variety of ways. Sick greyhounds in the last stage of the disease incubation period or following parasite infestation may show any combination of the following signs:

- Runny nose;
- Runny or inflamed eyes;
- Repeated sneezing;
- Coughing;
- Vomiting;
- Diarrhoea;
- Lameness;
- Bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of bitches in heat);
- Significant weight loss or inappetence (not eating);
- Apparent pain;
- Fits of staggering;

- Bloating of abdomen;
- Inability to urinate or defecate;
- Fever; and
- Presence of external parasites.

10. Veterinary Care

- 10.1 The trainer must establish liaison with a veterinary practitioner to provide advice and treatment as required.
- 10.2 Immediate veterinary care must be provided for sick or injured greyhounds, to relieve pain, suffering and distress.
- 10.3 Greyhounds should be vaccinated as per the Greyhound Racing Rules. Or as directed by GRNSW in consultation with a veterinarian
- 10.4 A program for heartworm should be in place in accordance with veterinary advice.
- 10.5 Internal and external parasites must be controlled through routine preventative treatments.

11. Transport of Racing Greyhounds

- 11.1 Trainers must ensure that at all times their greyhounds are transported in a way that does not to cause injury or stress. For example, to and from race meetings, training sites, exercise sites, veterinary visits, stud purposes, when sold or otherwise disposed of, and any other reasons for travel.

11.2 Methods of Transport

Trainers must ensure that their greyhounds travel in suitable modes of transport.

These include:

- Enclosed trailer - insulated and ventilated;
- In car with owner or handler; and
- In rear compartment of station wagon.

Modes of transport that are **not** suitable are:

- Wire cages in trailers or utilities, etc. which are open to the elements, and
- Non-ventilated or non-insulated trailers.

Trainers must ensure that the mode of transport used has no protuberances that could injure the animal during transport.

Trainers must also ensure that the greyhound has enough room to stretch adequately in a standing position as well as being able to lie down comfortably during transport.

11.3 Provision of Water for Duration of Transport

Trainers must ensure that good quality water is provided to each greyhound at least every six hours, or more frequently on hot or humid days. Provision of electrolytes should also be considered in extreme hot or humid conditions.

11.4 Breaks During the Trip

A greyhound should not be kept in a mode of transport for more than 6 hours without breaks provided. A break should consist of being let out of the mode of transport for at least ten minutes.

11.5 Sanitary Conditions of Mode of Transport

Before the commencement of each trip the owner must ensure that the mode of transport is in a sanitary condition. It must also be kept in a clean condition for the entire duration of each trip.

12. Humane Death

When necessary, the method of humane and painless death for any greyhound is a rapid intravenous injection of concentrated barbiturate solution. Such methods of euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian.

13. Rules of Greyhound Racing

R86 OFFENCES

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person:-

(ae) by use of any gear, substance, or thing or by any other means inflicts undue suffering on a greyhound:

(ag) fails to comply with a policy adopted by a Controlling Body:

R106 Proper care (welfare) of greyhounds

(1) A registered person must ensure that greyhounds, which are in a person's care or custody, are provided at all times with-

- a. proper and sufficient food, drink and protective apparel;
- b. proper exercise;
- c. Kennels constructed and of a standard approved by the Controlling Body which are adequate in size and which are kept in a clean and sanitary condition; and
- d. Veterinary attention when necessary.

(2) A registered person must exercise such reasonable care and supervision as may be necessary to prevent greyhounds pursuant to a person's care or custody from being subject to unnecessary pain or suffering.

- (3)** At any time after the registration of a litter, the last registered owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time, shall, within ten working days, notify the Controlling Body by lodging of the prescribed form, if that greyhound has transferred ownership, been retired as a pet or a breeding greyhound, been transferred to an adoption program, exported, surrendered to another agency, been humanely euthanased by a veterinary surgeon or deceased.
- (4)** It shall be a requirement to include a veterinary certificate of euthanasia when lodging the appropriate form for any greyhound that has been euthanased by that veterinary surgeon.
- (5)** An owner or person responsible at the relevant time who fails to comply with any provision of this rule shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty in accordance with Rule 95.

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