



Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds

April 2019



Preface

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) is the peak body for Thoroughbred, Harness and Greyhound racing in Western Australia.

RWWA is committed to ensuring that the best levels of care are given to greyhounds throughout all stages of their lives, through a program of investment, education, monitoring and regulation.

This 'Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds' has been prepared by RWWA's Integrity Department, in consultation with people who have expertise in greyhound management, welfare and veterinary science. The code was developed with input from RSPCA WA whose welfare officers assisted with review and development of this code through a RWWA-RSPCA WA working party. Further a review of the code in 2018 received input from members of the Greyhound Welfare Working Group.

The purpose of this document is to describe standards and guidelines that safeguard the welfare of greyhounds within the racing industry in Western Australia.

They are based on current scientific knowledge, recommended industry practice and community expectations.

The authors recognise and acknowledge their debt to the Victorian and NSW Codes of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds documents.

For the purposes of the Rules of Greyhound racing this code of practice is considered to be an official policy adopted by Racing and Wagering Western Australia (the Controlling Body). Under GAR 86 (ag) any person who is determined to be in breach of the provisions of this code of practice will therefore be guilty of an offence under the rules of greyhound racing and can be penalised accordingly.

Rules of Greyhound Racing

Relevant rules and policies of greyhound racing that underpin the regulation of the standards expressed in this code can be found at;

<http://www.rwwa.com.au/home/industry/rules-policies.html>

Disclaimer

Whilst all reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of the material in this publication, Racing and Wagering Western Australia and its respective officers, employees and agents accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions it may contain, whether caused by negligence, or otherwise, or for any loss, however caused, sustained by any person who relies on it.

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1. Introduction

This Code of Practice has been developed for participants licensed by Racing and Wagering WA (RWWA) involved in the activity of owning, training, breeding or otherwise keeping of 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 including those that are for breeding and rearing, boarding and training for greyhound racing.
- Act as a guideline for the RWWA Stewards to assess each individual and property and serve as a template for the application of the rules
- Enable industry members by adhering to this Code to demonstrate their duty of care for the racing greyhound.

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, Racing and Wagering WA Act 2003, Dog Act WA 1976, Dog Regulations 2013, Animal Welfare Act WA 2002 and the Animal Welfare Act WA 2002 Regulations.

Under the Animal Welfare Act WA 2002 (Section 19), 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 or breeder who has the care and control of the greyhound.

Greyhound racing participants, owners and breeders ("licensed person") 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 licensed person.

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

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.

2. Definitions

These definitions are provided solely for the purpose of interpreting this Code.

Artificial insemination: means insemination of a female greyhound by any means other than natural mating.

Bed: means an impervious structure, raised off the level of the floor that is sufficiently large enough to allow the greyhound to comfortably lie down when housed. The main component of a bed must not be constructed from concrete or metal.

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

Boarding: means the taking of custody or possession of the greyhound for keeping, accommodation, care, training or feeding for fee or reward.

Cage: means a structure designed to temporarily contain greyhounds.

Circular Training Facility: sometimes known as a bullring, means an enclosed circular facility used for greyhound education, training or fitness.

Code: means this Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds.

Critical socialisation period: means the period between three to 16 weeks of age for a puppy. In this period, appropriate socialisation and exposure to different environments can help ensure greyhounds are well-adjusted in adulthood and can relate well to other dogs, animals and people.

Day yards: means those areas described in section 4.6.2 of this Code.

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

Enclosure: means an area fully secured by fences or barriers designed to prevent the escape of greyhounds from within and the entry of animals from outside the area.

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

Environmental stimuli: means all aspects of a greyhound's surroundings, including toys, obstacle items in pens, starting boxes, walking in new areas, new people, other breeds of dog or animal species.

Establishment: means a property used to keep racing greyhounds.

Establishment and Health Management Plan (EHMP): means a plan developed in accordance with section 3.1 of this Code.

Euthanasia Certificate: means a certificate provided by a registered veterinary surgeon as set out in section 3.2 of this Code.

Exercise: means any physical activity of greyhounds that is designed to meet their behavioural and physical needs, including any exercise requirements outlined in this Code.

GAP: means Greyhounds As Pets operated by RWWA.



General health check: means physical examination by a veterinary surgeon to assess the health of a greyhound, including but not limited to assessments for:

- medical conditions
- musculoskeletal injuries
- infectious and zoonotic diseases
- internal and external parasites
- dental, eye, skin and ear issues
- breed specific conditions and genetic abnormalities including heritable defects
- age related conditions and ailments
- body condition scoring,
- behavioural health issues including signs of stress, aggression, and stereotypies.

Greyhound: means a greyhound registered with RWWA, including offspring of a greyhound under seven days of age, except a greyhound that has gone through GAP, or been retired from the industry and is being kept in the community as a pet.

Greyhound housing area: means all pens, kennels, cages and enclosures used to house greyhounds at the establishment, being areas where the greyhounds sleep, eat and spend the majority of their time. A greyhound housing area includes any isolation housing, whelping and lactating areas at the establishment.

Greyhound record: means a document in which a RWWA licensed participant records all veterinary attention, health requirements and medical treatments for each greyhound.

Handling: means any physical human contact with a greyhound, including grooming, soft patting/stroking, providing exercise, enrichment and human socialisation, and carrying out a physical health examination (that is, inspecting the greyhound's paws, ears and teeth).

Housing acclimatisation program: means a program to acclimatise the greyhound to racing kennels as described in Section 3.1 of this Code and set out in the EHMP.

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

Husbandry: means the care, management and breeding of greyhounds.

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

Independent veterinary surgeon: means a veterinary surgeon who is not related by blood, marriage, or de facto relationship to the Person in Charge (or family member of the Person in Charge) of the establishment and has no commercial interest in the establishment.

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

Kennel: can be used to describe either a pen designed to house a single greyhound or can mean a series of pens designed to house multiple greyhounds or puppies i.e. kennel facility.

Keep or Keeping or Kept: includes any one or more of the following activities in relation to a RWWA greyhound:

- breeding
- whelping
- rearing

- education (also referred to as breaking-in)
- training
- racing
- boarding
- any other activity that involves the care of a RWWA registered greyhound.

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

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

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

Move / moves / moved / movement: means to change the location of a greyhound including movements related to the hiring out or leasing of a greyhound. Applicable changes in location exclude short distance movements of a greyhound associated with activities such as race or trial track attendance or attendance at a veterinary surgeon, among other activities

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

Overnight: means a continuous period of time outside of the hours of 5:00am to 8:00pm.

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

Person in Charge: means a person who owns and/or manages a greyhound establishment and is responsible for the welfare of greyhounds and greyhound records at the establishment.

Puppy: means a greyhound aged less than 16 weeks.

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

Racing greyhound: see Greyhound.

Rearer: means a person with a relevant RWWA license who raises, socialises or commences the early education of greyhounds.

Rearing: means to raise a greyhound to maturity.

Remote: for the purposes of remote monitoring, includes the use of devices such as a video camera to allow monitoring of greyhounds at an establishment.

Retired: means a greyhound that has been retired from the industry (i.e. it is no longer racing or breeding) following appropriate preparations for retirement and re-homing as outlined in this Code (including re-homing without a retirement and re-homing program), or the relevant EHMP. Retired greyhounds are not a matter for this Code and fall under the relevant provisions of the Act.

RWWA participant: means a person that is registered or licensed with RWWA, including a person registered or licensed as an owner, greyhound attendant, catcher, handler, educator, trainer, rearer or breeder of greyhounds.

RWWA policy: means a policy developed and mandated by RWWA.

RWWA registered greyhound owner/ RWWA registered owner: means the person who is registered or licensed with RWWA as the owner of the greyhound.

RWWA Steward: means a person appointed by RWWA as a Steward.

Slipping Track: means a straight yard area along which greyhounds can run.

Service: means physical mating or artificial insemination of a greyhound.

Socialisation: means interaction between a greyhound and other animals (including other greyhounds) and humans to make the greyhound fit for a life in companionship with others. Socialisation includes the requirements set out in this Code.

Spelling / spelled: means a period of rest.

Staff: means any suitably Qualified or Experienced person appointed, whether formally or informally (e.g. family member), by the Person in Charge to provide care for greyhounds as required by this Code.

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

Training: means to teach, educate and/or instruct a greyhound with the aim to achieve a fee or reward.

Transfer or Transferred: means to change the ownership of a RWWA greyhound, including transfers related to the leasing of a greyhound:

- between RWWA participants, or
- from a RWWA participant to a person or establishment not registered by RWWA but registered by another greyhound racing jurisdiction, or
- from a RWWA participant to a person or establishment not registered by RWWA or any other greyhound racing jurisdiction.

Veterinary attention: means the examination and provision of appropriate treatment of a greyhound by a registered veterinary surgeon in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act (WA).

Veterinary surgeon: means a veterinary surgeon registered with the Veterinary Surgeons Board WA.

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

Washable: means an impervious surface that is capable of being cleaned with liquids.

Weatherproof: means protection from the wind, rain and extreme temperatures, to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds housed in an establishment.

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

Whelping Box: means a pen designed to protect greyhound puppies during whelping and early life by keeping them safely contained, protected from cold, and safe from the danger of crushing or smothering by the mother.

3. Establishment operation

Compliance with section 3.1 (Establishment and Health Management Plan) of this Code and its provisions is mandatory from 1 January, 2020 for any person who keeps racing greyhounds.

3.1 Establishment and Health Management Plan (EHMP)

Every establishment must have an EHMP in place for general operational matters and greyhound management, welfare, socialisation, enrichment and education (as appropriate) that is reviewed annually. The EHMP may outline protocols that differ from the requirements outlined in this Code. Where protocols are not specified, the requirements outlined in this Code apply.

If an establishment has multiple Persons in Charge, then the EHMP must identify the Person in Charge responsible for each area of the establishment or component of the EHMP, including shared/common areas.

EHMPs must be approved by a veterinary surgeon initially and every three years thereafter. If there is a change in the veterinary surgeon supporting the establishment, the new veterinary surgeon must be provided with the EHMP as soon as practicable.

If the veterinary surgeon is also the Person in Charge or the establishment owner, then an independent veterinary surgeon must approve the EHMP. EHMP approval must occur at no less than three year intervals following the initial approval date.

The EHMP must be signed by the Person in Charge or owner (if not the Person in Charge) of the establishment and the independent veterinary surgeon.

The EHMP must include protocols for:

- assessment of new greyhounds before admission to the establishment
- daily visual behavioural and welfare assessments of greyhounds (only where there are signs of ill health or stress, these must be recorded in the applicable greyhound record)
- assessment programs for the health and welfare of greyhounds being reared for sale
- exercise, environmental enrichment and socialisation for each class of greyhound, including puppies, rearing, educating, pre-training, training and racing greyhounds
- where conducting education and pre-training, the age at which greyhounds within the establishment will be exposed to:
 - collar training
 - lead training
 - chase motivation training
 - transport vehicles and equipment (e.g. trailers, crates)
 - training facilities (e.g. slipping tracks, circular tracks)
 - race facilities (e.g. starting boxes, racing kennels, catching pens)
- preparing a greyhound for retirement and rehoming
- risk assessments of housing and exercise areas and risk management plans
- euthanasia in emergency situations, including contact details for veterinary surgeon/clinic.

- overnight monitoring, including the implementation of emergency action if required
- housing acclimatisation program
- quarantine and movement of greyhounds, including for new greyhounds introduced to the establishment
- response to an outbreak of infectious disease at the establishment
- management of any isolation housing at the establishment
- staff induction process
- hygiene (for both persons on site and greyhounds), disinfection and disease prevention, including pest management protocols
- vaccination programs for greyhounds
- internal and external parasite prevention and treatment programs including screening for fleas, ear mites, ticks, and ringworm
- dental management, including gum disease and plaque management
- oral supplements and injectable substances regimes
- grooming requirements
- the provision of an appropriate diet for all greyhounds at the establishment
- intervention and management actions to reduce and manage the risk of greyhounds showing signs of stress and/or the development of behavioural stereotypies
- determining the suitability of breeding greyhounds to continue breeding within the establishment (as appropriate)
- whelping greyhounds (as appropriate)
- emergency management plans for both humans and greyhounds including display of evacuation procedures for the establishment.

Establishments must also keep:

- a complete and up to date list of establishment staff, including contact details, RWWA participant registration number (where applicable), experience and/or qualifications and training history
- a staff roster (where appropriate)
- contact details for a general veterinary surgeon and emergency veterinary surgeon (where different).

3.2 Euthanasia

Where indicated, the only appropriate method of humane euthanasia for any greyhound is a rapid intravenous injection of concentrated barbiturate solution. Euthanasia must be performed by a registered veterinary surgeon and all such events must be reported to RWWA Stewards, including provision of a Euthanasia Certificate from the relevant veterinary surgeon, as per the requirements of R106.

Euthanasia must be performed in an area that is separate from any greyhound housing area and must not be carried out in view of any other greyhounds or the general public.

3.3 Security

The kennel facility must be secure to prevent access by unauthorised people but allow rapid access in the event of emergencies.

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) to prevent the escape of greyhounds.

Provision for firefighting equipment must be readily available and an emergency exit plan as required. Properties must meet local council provisions with respect to fire mitigation i.e. suitable firebreaks.

All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or use, must be kept secure and out of reach of greyhounds.

Prescribed veterinary products must be kept secure within a lockable cabinet with all treatments administered recorded for each greyhound.

3.4 Pest control

Appropriate controls must be in place to effectively control pests, including flies, fleas, mosquitoes, snakes and rodents.

Chemicals used for pest control must be commercially available, registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Pest traps must be used in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act WA and its regulations.



4. Accommodation

This section outlines the minimum housing requirements for keeping greyhounds.

The accommodation and environment of greyhounds in training should be of a standard that ensures their security, safety and wellbeing. Kennel accommodation must satisfy all Occupational Health and Safety Standards that may apply and also be in accordance with the requirements of the local Shire/Council.

Prior to the construction of any kennel facility the Person in Charge is advised to first consult with their local Shire/Council in relation to any requirements for the keeping of greyhounds or construction of kennels in the relevant area.

All kennel facilities must be approved by RWWA Stewards before registered greyhounds can be kept at that facility.

Prior to seeking to have their kennel facilities approved by RWWA – new applicants and existing licensed persons will need to read and understand all requirements specified within section 4. of this Code and ensure that they are in compliance with all relevant sections as stated.

Any application for approval of new kennel facilities that does not meet any one of these minimum standards shall not be approved. Any establishment previously approved, may be unapproved, with housing of greyhounds prohibited at that establishment until compliance is met and approved by Stewards.

Existing establishments may delay compliance with section 4.6 of this Code (Racing kennel construction and size requirements), as far as the provisions relate to kennel construction and size, where all facilities must be compliant either upon their replacement, or by a date specified by RWWA Stewards where any welfare or safety issues are identified at that establishment referable to non-compliant facilities.

4.1 Disinfection and Hygiene

The greyhound establishment must be clean and hygienic at all times.

All pens, kennels, yards and exercise areas used to house greyhounds must be cleaned at least once per day (or more often as required) by hosing or other appropriate means.

All faeces, soiled bedding and uneaten food must be removed at least once a day from kennels and exercise areas prior to cleaning, with faeces disposed of in a hygienic manner. A greyhound must be removed from its kennel during the kennel cleaning process.

Kennel enclosures must be disinfected at least once a week to minimise odour from kennels.

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.

Disinfectants must be used and stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Food preparation and storage areas must be maintained in a hygienic standard and foodstuffs stored in sealed containers at correct temperature and protected from vermin.

Ensure all equipment, including watering, feeding receptacles and utensils are clean and free of food, mould, etc.

Collection drains must be cleaned daily.

Clean equipment, gear and bedding, including coats and blankets, before they are used by a different dog. Bedding, coats and blankets must be cleaned no less than four times per year or more frequently if soiled.

Disinfect watering and feeding utensils if the greyhound using them is diagnosed with a disease or internal parasite infection before they are used to feed or water another greyhound. Utensils must be rinsed after disinfection to avoid poisoning.

Disinfect enrichment toys when providing them to a different litter.

Waste disposal must be in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Shire/Council.

4.2 Shire/Council requirements

Kennel construction must be compliant with local government (Shire/Council) regulations. If there are to be more than two greyhound kennels on a property then these kennels must be approved by the relevant Shire/Council and proof of this approval must be supplied to RWWA Stewards with any application for a RWWA participant's license.

Once approved, any additional kennels built that will lead to the total amount of kennels exceeding two, must be approved by the relevant Shire/Council and a copy of this approval must be lodged with RWWA Stewards.

Kennels should be connected to a sewer or on a septic system in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Shire/Council.

Potable running water must be available at all properties where kennels are located.

4.3 Location of accommodation

Greyhound accommodation facilities must be located away from sources of noise or pollution that could cause injury or stress to a greyhound and away from areas on the property that are prone to flooding, snakes and/or bushfires.

The immediate surrounds of a kennel and the property upon which it is located shall be maintained in a clean and tidy condition at all times.

4.4 Environmental control

Greyhounds must be protected from extremes of temperature and participants must comply with RWWA's Hot Weather Racing Policy when enacted.

Indoor kennel temperatures should be monitored constantly and kept in the range of 16-24°C.

In the absence of a climate controlled environment and in low temperatures greyhounds must be provided with a body rug in addition to bedding.

Greyhounds must not be in extended contact with wet floors.

Noise from barking greyhounds must be managed to comply with local government noise regulation and to minimise impact on neighbours. Trainers should understand and employ environmental enrichment techniques, or seek advice from behavioural experts, to address problem barking in greyhounds.

The use of barking muzzles is prohibited at any time under the local rules of greyhound racing.

Exercise areas must be maintained to prevent deterioration to bare earth, i.e. re-turfed or use suitable animal flooring.

4.5 Barriers to escape

It is required that there are at least two barriers between greyhound(s) and escape from the establishment at all times, unless the greyhound(s) are under supervision.

Barriers must be:

- constructed in a manner to prevent greyhounds from injuring themselves, escaping from the establishment or digging out
- at least one barrier must be a minimum of 1.8 metres high.

4.6 Racing kennel construction and size requirements

Greyhound kennels and yards must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that ensures the good health and well-being of the greyhounds, while preventing escape of greyhounds or injury to humans.

Vehicles, caravans, trailers, portable crates or the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used for accommodation for greyhounds.

Provisions should be available to erect fixed barriers, or house individual greyhounds in alternate accommodation, where necessary to prevent reactivity between individual greyhounds.

4.6.1 Indoor kennels for racing greyhounds

Indoor kennels are single greyhound housing pens that are usually located within a shed or building and are commonly used for housing adult racing greyhounds.

Kennels must provide enough space for each animal to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about.

Individual racing greyhound kennels must be a minimum size of 3 square meters, with a minimum width of 1.2 meters.

Only one greyhound can be kept in any racing greyhound kennel that is between 3 and 10 square meters in size.

Greyhounds undergoing preparations for retirement and rehoming should not be housed in this kennel size, other than overnight.

Greyhounds less than 12 months of age must not be housed in this kennel size for more than three hours per day unless they are ill or injured.

Temperature, humidity and ventilation must be managed to ensure greyhound comfort and safety.

The duration and intensity of artificial lighting, where used, must be as close as possible to natural conditions.

Greyhounds must not be kept in unnaturally dark conditions. All indoor kennels must provide the greyhounds with continuous access to natural sunlight during the day.

Kennels may be separated by solid partitions, galvanised chain wire or weld mesh wire dividers.

Kennel gates must be constructed in a manner to prevent greyhounds escaping.

All kennels must:

- be kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails etc.
- not allow greyhounds in neighbouring kennels to make unsafe contact through or over the top of the fence
- be constructed in a manner that prevents greyhounds from being injured, escaping or jumping out.

The flooring of the kennel must:

- be made of solid material such as concrete
- be impervious to liquids to assist cleaning, disinfection and drainage
- be surrounded by solid walls
- not be constructed of wire.

The internal surfaces of a kennel's external walls must be constructed of impervious, solid, washable materials to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.

All greyhounds must be provided with raised sleeping areas - including but not limited to wooden sleeping boards, greyhound houses or trampoline-style beds.

All sleeping areas for greyhounds must have clean, hygienic, dry bedding sufficient to insulate them and provide comfort and cushioning.

Bedding materials must be selected for ease of maintenance and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity.

Roof height within the individual kennel (outside the sleeping area) must allow greyhounds to stand on their hind legs with their front paws raised above their heads (a common stance for a greyhound). Where there is a welfare concern regarding roof height, veterinary surgeon advice may be sought.

All kennels should be located at floor level and multi-storey banks of cages are not permitted.

If housed in 10 sqm or less, greyhounds must be given at least three 15 minute breaks per day, except in extreme weather conditions. These breaks can include any time outside the greyhound's normal housing kennel, such as toileting, exercising, training and spending time in a day yard or exercise yard.

4.6.2 Exercise/Day yards

An exercise or day yard is any area that contains a greyhound for a temporary period of time, outside normal housing i.e. to toilet and exercise.

Exercise yards must be fully supervised at all times.

Greyhounds may be exercised together in a yard of sufficient size. An exercise yard should allow 10 square meters per greyhound exercised within the yard.



Exercise or day yards should have a sheltered area of at least 3 sqm per greyhound that offers protection from the weather (sun, wind, rain and other extremes of weather).

An exercise or day yard is external to the greyhound's normal housing (pen) environment.

If exercise yards become muddy or dusty due to weather conditions, any greyhounds with signs of respiratory, eye or skin conditions must be moved to a clean housing area. If symptoms persist, veterinary advice must be sought.

4.6.3 Outdoor housing pens and yards

Greyhounds may be permanently housed in outside pen or yard accommodations, which incorporates both a weatherproof shelter/sleeping area and an exercise area.

These areas can be used to house; adult greyhounds that are retired or preparing for retirement, compatible adult racing greyhounds housed in pairs, breeding greyhounds, greyhound puppies that are being reared and greyhounds having time away from training when recuperating from injury or illness.

Compatible greyhounds may be housed together. Outdoor housing yards should allow 10 square meters per adult greyhound over 12 months of age and be a minimum of 2 meters wide.

Greyhounds must be actively monitored when housed together. If fighting, bullying or other adverse welfare outcomes are identified, they must be separated.

Fencing for outdoor pens and yards must:

- have at least one external barrier that is a minimum of 1.8 metres high
- not allow greyhounds in neighbouring pens to make unsafe contact through or over the top of the fence
- be constructed in a manner that prevents greyhounds from being injured, escaping or jumping out
- be maintained in good repair with no sharp protrusions or holes.

All outdoor housing pens and yards must be well drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

All flooring for outdoor housing pens and yards must:

- not be made from wire, but can be made from any other suitable material
- be easily cleaned of faeces
- not be allowed to become infested with parasites.

All housing areas must not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds suffer, or are likely to suffer, from respiratory, eye or skin conditions.

Exercise areas may be incorporated into housing yards. For whelping greyhounds, adjoining exercise areas or day yards may be incorporated into the overall enclosure area.

Weatherproof shelter/sleeping area

Where multiple greyhounds are housed together, each greyhound must be provided with sufficient space and bedding material so that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time.

All outdoor housing pens and yards used to house greyhounds over 16 weeks of age must provide at least 3 sqm of weather proof area for a single greyhound, which must also contain a raised sleeping area.

For each additional greyhound (aged between 16 weeks and 12 months) housed in the outdoor yard, an additional 1 sqm of weather proof area is required.

For each additional greyhound housed (over 12 months of age), an additional 1.5 sqm of weather proof area is required.

If housing contains impervious materials that can conduct heat, then adequate insulation or approved heating or cooling must be used to minimise heat conduction.

Raised sleeping areas must be partially enclosed and contain beds and bedding that are:

- protected from the weather (wind, rain, sun and extremes of climate), vermin and harassment by other animals
- not predominantly made of concrete or metal
- raised off the ground
- soft, dry and warm
- changed or cleaned as required under this Code.



4.7 Breeding and rearing facilities construction and size

4.7.1 Mating areas

When greyhounds are mating naturally, they must be physically isolated from all other greyhounds at the establishment. The isolated area must be at least 15 sqm. Naturally mating greyhounds must not be housed together overnight.

4.7.2 Whelping/lactating areas

Whelping and lactating areas must:

- have access to natural daylight
- contain bedding that is soft, absorbent and easily disposed of or cleaned and disinfected when soiled
- be temperature controlled to protect greyhounds from extremes of temperature at all times (the recommended temperature range is between 16°C to 24°C)
- have raised sleeping areas to prevent draughts, while ensuring puppies cannot fall out and become injured or stranded.

Separate whelping areas must be provided for each female greyhound/mother and her puppies containing a whelping box. Whelping areas may also include adjoining exercise areas or day yards.

The whelping box must be large enough for the female greyhound/mother to lie comfortably while whelping and to accommodate the female greyhound/mother and her puppies for the first four weeks after whelping.

The whelping box must have solid sides that can be easily disinfected, and that are high enough to allow the female greyhound/mother to exit readily but prevent puppies under four weeks from falling out.

Whelping areas must be physically separated from all other greyhounds.

Lactating areas must:

- contain a fully screened bedding area to allow the female greyhound/mother physical separation from all other greyhounds
- allow the female greyhound/mother access to an area where her puppies cannot reach her, to allow her to rest
- have a raised shelf area around the sides of the box to prevent the puppies being caught between the sides of the box and the mothers body.

Note

It is important to provide a heat source for the puppies (e.g. 25 watt globe/lamp), particularly during colder weather, to ensure they can maintain their body temperature, because their internal temperature regulation does not work at this age. In warmer weather, it is important to provide an alternative cooler area for the female greyhound/mother.

4.7.3 Puppy rearing housing

Housing one female greyhound and her litter up to eight weeks of age requires 15 to 20 sqm of space.

Housing one female greyhound and her litter of 8-16 weeks of age requires an additional 15 sqm of space.

Housing of a litter of less than 10 puppies at 8-16 weeks of age requires 15 to 20 sqm of space. For every additional four puppies, an additional 15 sqm is required.

Fencing for puppy and rearing yards must:

- have at least one external barrier that is a minimum of 1.8 metres high
- not allow greyhounds in neighbouring pens to make unsafe contact through or over the top of the fence
- be constructed in a manner that prevents greyhounds from being injured, escaping or jumping out
- be maintained in good repair with no sharp protrusions or holes.
- All puppy and rearing yards must be well drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

All flooring for puppy and rearing yards must:

- not be made from wire, but can be made from any other suitable material
- be easily cleaned of faeces
- not be allowed to become infested with parasites.

All housing areas must not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds suffer, or are likely to suffer, from respiratory, eye or skin conditions.

Exercise areas may be incorporated into housing yards. For whelping greyhounds, adjoining exercise areas or day yards may be incorporated into the overall enclosure area.

If the outdoor pen or yard accommodating puppies aged over 16 weeks is not suitable for the purpose of galloping exercise, in that it is less than 40 metres in length, a suitable galloping paddock or straight track of at least 40 metres in length must be available to use for galloping exercise.

Weatherproof shelter/sleeping area

All outdoor puppy and rearing housing yards must provide a weather proof shelter, made of impervious material, and including a raised sleeping area.

Where multiple greyhound pups are housed together, each greyhound must be provided with sufficient space and bedding material so that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time.

All housing pens and yards used to house greyhounds under 16 weeks of age must provide at least 1 sqm of weather proof area per greyhound puppy, including a raised sleeping area.

All housing pens and yards used to house greyhounds aged between 16 weeks and 12 months must provide at least 3 sqm of weather proof area for a single greyhound, which must also contain a raised sleeping area.

For each additional greyhound (aged between 16 weeks and 12 months) housed in the same outdoor yard, an additional 1 sqm of weather proof area is required.

If housing contains impervious materials that can conduct heat, then adequate insulation or approved heating or cooling must be used to minimise heat conduction.

Raised sleeping areas must be within the weatherproof shelter and contain beds and bedding that are:

- protected from the weather (wind, rain, sun and extremes of climate), vermin and harassment by other animals
- not predominantly made of concrete or metal
- raised off the ground
- soft, dry and warm
- changed or cleaned as required under this Code.

4.8 Other establishment requirements

4.8.1 Tethering

Greyhounds may only be tethered for temporary, short-term restraint under supervision.

Greyhounds must not be permanently tethered or tethered as a form of long-term containment or housing at any time.

4.8.2 Isolation housing

All establishments should provide an area for isolating greyhounds suspected of having an infectious disease. Alternatively, they should have an arrangement with a veterinary surgeon to use off site isolation housing at a veterinary practice.

Isolation housing at the establishment must be physically separated by an impervious barrier or a distance of at least 10 metres from other greyhound housing areas at the establishment.

Pen items, such as bedding materials, food and water utensils, enrichment items etc. from isolation areas must remain in those isolation areas and not be used in other areas of the establishment.

Drainage must not run from isolation areas to or through other greyhound housing areas.

Greyhounds in isolation must be regularly monitored by the Person in Charge according to direction from a veterinary surgeon.

Greyhounds with injuries or illnesses that are not infectious must be separated, but not necessarily isolated, from other greyhounds if separation will reduce stress in the greyhound.



5. Training Facilities

Training facilities are used during education, pre-training and training of greyhounds.

These include, but are not limited to: circular training facilities (e.g. a bullring), straight tracks, galloping runs and private trial tracks.

In accordance with LR 105 all training facilities used for the purpose of educating greyhounds or pursuing a lure must be registered with RWWA.

All training facilities must:

- be supervised at all times when in use by greyhounds
- be fully enclosed with a fence constructed of materials that will not injure greyhounds or allow them to escape
- not have large dips or holes that may cause injury to a greyhound when running
- not be made of concrete or other materials that could injure the greyhound, such as wood, wire or a rough surface
- not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds suffer, or are likely to suffer, from respiratory or eye conditions
- be cleaned of any faeces after each greyhound is removed from the area
- be clear of any debris
- be drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

Any track surface must be regularly maintained and graded with suitable equipment to ensure the racing surface is kept in good order.

Any mechanical lures and lure cables must be kept in good working condition at all times.

Only lures that are approved by the Controlling body as prescribed in the Rules of Racing are permitted to be used.

Greyhounds known to be incompatible with other greyhounds must be muzzled at all times while using training facilities.

Starting boxes and viewing cages must:

- be constructed of materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected
- be constructed of materials that will not injure the greyhound
- be kept in good working order at all times
- be cleaned daily or upon use.

Greyhounds in viewing cages must:

- not spend more than one hour in the cage without the opportunity to toilet or have access to water
- be monitored for signs of distress
- be removed if they are showing any signs of stress.

6. Husbandry – Management and Health of Greyhounds

6.1 Nutrition

Provision of nutrition, including food, supplements and medications, must be in accordance with the establishment's EHMP.

6.1.1 Food

All greyhounds must be fed at least once daily. Food must be canine appropriate and meet the daily requirements for the condition, level of activity, age and size of the greyhound.

Food must be provided in a clean food receptacle, except where providing food as enrichment in a treat ball or chew/food toy, or when providing bones.

Uneaten food should be removed and disposed of daily so that it does not spoil or attract vermin.

Pregnant and lactating greyhounds must be fed at least twice daily with food of appropriate nutritional quality, or fed under the direction of a veterinary surgeon.

Puppies from three weeks of age to weaning must be provided with appropriate food in a shallow food receptacle.

Fully weaned puppies less than 16 weeks of age must be fed at least three times daily with a nutritionally balanced, age appropriate diet.

Orphaned and pre-weaned puppies must be fed under the direction of a veterinary surgeon or in accordance with the EHMP.

Greyhounds between four and six months of age must be fed a minimum of twice daily with a nutritionally balanced diet.

It is recommended that greyhounds over the age of 16 weeks are provided with their own food receptacle.

Feeding raw offal to greyhounds is not recommended. If greyhounds are fed raw offal, it must be part of the EHMP and be in conjunction with a complete worming program.

Food must be stored appropriately in sealed containers, which must be vermin proof and refrigerated according to the manufacturer's directions.

Food must be prepared in hygienic areas that are cleaned and disinfected after food is prepared.

Food supply on site must ensure food is available for the animals in the case of an emergency event such as illness (for the Person in Charge), accident or large scale emergency.

6.1.2 Water

Greyhounds when kennelled at their place of abode must have access to a sufficient supply of fresh clean water at all times, unless advised otherwise by a veterinary surgeon.

The recommended daily volume of water is approximately 50 milliliters of water per one kilogram of body weight (for example 1.5 litres per day for a 30 kg greyhound).

This amount may vary depending on any number of factors including health status, environmental temperature, amount of exercise, lactation status, water content of diet etc.

Young puppies, from three weeks of age, must be provided with access to water.

Water receptacles must hold sufficient water for the greyhound(s), be non-spillable and does not cause injury to the greyhounds.

6.1.3 Supplements and medications

All supplements and medications must be individually labelled and kept in their original container or packaging. All supplements and medications must be stored according to manufacturer's directions and be easily identified.

All expired supplements and medications must be disposed of according to relevant legislative requirements.

Injectable substances must be registered in accordance with Federal and State legislation and be administered under the direction of a veterinary surgeon.

Supplements and medications must be registered where required to be according to relevant Federal and State legislation, and all substances must only be obtained and held in compliance with R84 and LR 85.

6.2 Health care

Vaccinations, parasite prevention, grooming and other requirements, must be in accordance with the establishment's EHMP and documented in the greyhound record as required. Various fact sheets regarding greyhound health management are available on the RWWA website.

6.2.1 Vaccination and parasite prevention – between 6 and 8 weeks of age

Puppies between six and eight weeks of age must be vaccinated against and treated for the following:

- Canine Distemper
- Infectious Canine Hepatitis
- Canine Parvovirus
- Internal and external parasites (e.g. worms, fleas and ticks).

A greyhound must not receive its first treatment/vaccine before 10 days of age.

The Person in Charge must ensure that vaccination certificates, including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required and a record of who administered the treatment, are signed by a veterinary surgeon at each vaccination.

6.2.2 Vaccination and parasite prevention – between 10 and 16 weeks of age and older

All greyhounds aged 10 weeks or older must have current vaccination and/or undergo preventative treatment for the following:

- Canine Distemper
- Infectious Canine Hepatitis
- Canine Parvovirus
- Canine Cough (parainfluenza (Type II) and Bordetella bronchiseptica)
- Internal and external parasites (e.g. worms, fleas and ticks).

It is recommended that a preventative program for heartworm is administered to all greyhounds under advice from a veterinary surgeon.

Greyhounds must receive an annual vaccination for Canine Cough that could occur at the time of their annual health check.

Any off-label vaccination use must be in accordance with the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA) guidelines.

The Person in Charge must ensure that vaccination certificates, including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required and a record of who administered the treatment, are signed by a veterinary surgeon at each vaccination and recorded in the greyhound's RWWA treatment record book.

6.2.3 Health checks and treatment plans

All greyhounds, regardless of breeding status, should receive an annual general health check by a veterinary surgeon (or more frequently as required). This could occur at the time of a greyhound's annual Canine Cough vaccination.

Routine dental prophylactic care is recommended to prevent dental and gum disease.

Any health issues identified must be recorded and evidence provided that a treatment plan was devised in conjunction with a veterinary surgeon and implemented.

6.2.4 Recognising disease and ill health

Persons in charge of greyhounds must be able to recognise common signs of disease and ill health and take reasonable measures to respond to these observations, which includes seeking veterinary advice.

Disease, ill health or stress may be observed in greyhounds in a variety of ways including observation 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 season);
- Significant weight loss or inappetence (not eating);
- Apparent pain;
- Fits of staggering;
- Bloating of abdomen;
- Inability to urinate or defecate;
- Skin inflammation/abnormalities;
- Fever; and
- Presence of external parasites.

The Person in Charge must establish a relationship with a veterinary surgeon to provide advice and treatment as required.

Immediate veterinary attention must be provided for sick or injured greyhounds, to relieve pain, suffering and distress.



Participants must have appropriate biosecurity measures in place to prevent the spread of infectious conditions within the kennel. In addition they must maintain either an isolation area on the property to isolate sick animals or have suitable isolation facilities available off site.

6.2.5 Grooming and other requirements

All greyhounds must be groomed by brushing or bathing, whichever is necessary, at a frequency that ensures coats are kept in good, clean condition.

All greyhounds must have their toenails checked and trimmed at a frequency that prevents overgrowth.

6.2.6 Muzzling

Muzzling protocols may be stipulated in the EHMP. Any muzzle used must not:

- restrict normal and necessary behaviour such as panting and drinking
- cause pain or distress to the greyhound.

Muzzling during toileting, socialisation and group exercise is acceptable as a means of acclimatising greyhounds to muzzles for racing. Greyhounds must not be muzzled for more than 30 minutes at a time unless:

- being walked in public places
- travelling
- under strict, documented, direction by a veterinary surgeon
- under RWWA Steward direction
- part of a housing acclimatisation program as detailed in the establishment's EHMP.

The use of muzzles must consider weather conditions.

Any veterinary direction for muzzle use must be reviewed at least annually.

The use of barking muzzles is prohibited at any time under the local rules of greyhound racing.

6.3 Breeding

A greyhound Breeder or Rearer must first obtain a Breeding License with RWWA before any breeding or rearing activities take place. All pre requirements for such a licence must be completed and assessed by RWWA Stewards.

RWWA Greyhound Breeders Educational packages must be completed by all new applicants before any Breeders licence will be granted.

All licensed Breeders must comply with all relevant rules of racing where registration and recording of breeding sires, breeding bitches and whelping/litter notifications/records are concerned.

Breeding mates must not be closely related, for example, father and daughter; brother and sister; mother and son. Second degree mating's (for example, grandfather and granddaughter) are not recommended without appropriate prior expert advice.

6.3.1 Breeding males

Male greyhounds must be at least 12 months of age prior to their first service.

A male greyhound must be registered by RWWA as a Registered Sire, including provision of DNA analysis on a sample taken by a RWWA Approved Veterinarian and fertility test no less than 30 days prior to application, before being bred.

A male greyhound must have a general health check by a veterinary surgeon prior to first service to determine whether the greyhound is suitable for breeding purposes. The Person in Charge must obtain a certificate from the veterinary surgeon to state that the greyhound, at the time of examination, was suitable to breed.

6.3.2 Breeding females

Female greyhounds must be at least 12 months of age prior to their first service.

A female greyhound must have a general health check by a veterinary surgeon:

- prior to first service to assess whether the greyhound is physically mature enough to breed, and
- within 8 weeks of whelping.

A female greyhound must be registered by RWWA as a 'Breeding Female', including provision of a current vaccination certificate, before being bred.

A female greyhound is not allowed to be bred after the age of eight years unless she meets certain criteria, including a veterinary certification of appropriate health and fitness, as well as the approval of RWWA, which includes an assessment of the racing success/ability of her progeny. On assessment the greyhound's progeny must meet key metric data indicating success before approval to continue breeding is granted. However, this approval only allows the greyhound to be bred on one more occasion.

A female greyhound is only allowed to have a maximum of three litters unless she meets certain criteria, including a veterinary certification of appropriate health and fitness, as well as the approval of RWWA, which includes an assessment of the racing success/ability of her progeny. However, once again this approval only allows the greyhound to be bred on one more occasion.

A female greyhound is not allowed to breed more than two litters in any 18 month period. This ensures the greyhound's body has sufficient time to recover and allows the pups to reach an age where their ability can be assessed.

6.3.3 Natural mating

Natural mating pairs must be supervised during mating and physically separated from other greyhounds. Dog breeding stands must not be used.

If the female greyhound is being unduly harassed by the male greyhound, she must be removed and the advice of a veterinary surgeon sought:

- if there is a risk of injury to either greyhound, or
- for any other concern.

6.3.4 Artificial Insemination

Artificial insemination procedures must be conducted by a RWWA approved veterinary surgeon. The Person in Charge must seek veterinary advice regarding greyhound after-care including advice on exercise post-surgery and during pregnancy.

6.3.5 Whelping

At least seven days before her due date, unless there is a likelihood of stress or injury, a pregnant greyhound must be moved to a whelping housing area that complies with this Code.

As soon as the greyhound shows signs of whelping, fresh bedding material must be provided and the female greyhound must be regularly monitored (in person or remotely) until whelping is complete.

If there are any abnormalities observed or concerns for the welfare of the female greyhound or puppies during the whelping process, the advice of a veterinary surgeon must be immediately sought.

After whelping is complete, the Person in Charge or other staff must:

- monitor the female greyhound and her puppies six hourly until the puppies are feeding and maternal acceptance has been firmly established
- conduct a puppy health check within 12 hours of whelping
- within 24 hours, clean the whelping area and change all bedding material.

Oxytocin must only be administered by, or under the direction of, a veterinary surgeon.

6.3.6 Caesarean section

After a caesarean section appropriate wound care and pain relief, as directed by a veterinary surgeon, must be provided for the bitch.

The Person in Charge must obtain veterinary advice regarding greyhound after care including exercise post-surgery.

6.3.7 Lactating greyhounds

Monitoring of lactating greyhounds must include observation of:

- all puppies feeding
- the greyhound lactating
- if applicable, monitoring of caesarean wounds for redness, swelling and discharge.

If puppies do not gain weight, the Person in Charge must seek the advice of a veterinary surgeon and act as directed by that veterinary surgeon.

For the first week post-whelp, greyhounds must be examined twice daily for mastitis and veterinary attention provided immediately upon diagnosis.

Soiled bedding material must be removed and clean bedding material must be provided daily during lactation.

Lactating greyhounds must be exercised as per the EHMP or Table 1. of this Code.

6.3.8 Rearing

Rearing requirements reflect the aim for greyhounds to become successful racing greyhounds and then transition to companion animals, following appropriate preparation for retirement and rehoming as outlined in this Code or the approved EHMP.

During rearing, greyhounds must:

- not be permanently separated from their mother before eight weeks of age unless the health of the puppies is at risk or the female is showing signs of stress. Advice from a veterinary surgeon must be sought if there are any concerns for the welfare of the puppies or female
- be housed in accordance with Section 4. of this Code
- be handled, exercised, socialised and trained in accordance with the approved EHMP or Table 1. of this Code
- be provided with exercise options that encourage chasing behaviour such as chasing games
- be actively monitored when housed together and if fighting, bullying or other adverse welfare outcomes are identified, they must be separated

- not be muzzled at any time, except as part of the education process, when in public, under the direction of a veterinary surgeon during treatment for an injury or illness or as part of a housing acclimatisation program as detailed in the establishment's EHMP.

From three to 16 weeks of age is the critical socialisation period for puppies. During this period, greyhounds must:

- be provided with access to different surfaces in their pen or kennel environment (e.g. bed and bedding material, concrete, grass, carpet etc.)
- be taught to wear a collar and walk on a lead
- have multiple opportunities for isolation from their litter (in the company of a handler) or complete isolation to acclimatise them to periods of separation from their litter
- be exposed to standard racing and training facilities as outlined in the approved EHMP
- be brushed or bathed in warm water and towel dried once a month (or more frequently as required)
- be exposed to people other than their usual handlers and other dogs or domestic pets (e.g. GAP dogs) that do not pose a disease risk to the puppies (e.g. have been suitably vaccinated).

Note

Isolation is an important practice because greyhounds adopted to a home or residential household are likely to spend time alone. This situation may cause anxiety if the greyhound has not been exposed to isolation during its critical socialisation period.

In addition to the above requirements, greyhounds aged between 16 and 24 weeks must be exposed to:

- different environmental landscapes, that are available locally (e.g. reserves, parks, shopping strips, local sporting grounds) and socialised with other dogs or domestic pets as appropriate
- being walked on a lead.

It is recommended that greyhounds older than 16 weeks are exposed to the following as often as possible:

- starting boxes
- travelling in cars and trailers
- circular training facilities
- race track environments.

Before a greyhound enters its education phase, it must undergo a housing acclimatisation program.

The program must:

- provide increased exposure to housing equivalent in size and design to common racing kennels of between 3 sqm and 10 sqm
- be incorporated into the EHMP
- provide the greyhound with positive reinforcement and enrichment, such as toys, bones or other activities
- provide the greyhound with opportunities to toilet to help build familiarity with race kennel routine
- teach the greyhound to walk by their collar
- walk the greyhound by their collar.

6.4 Education, pre-training and training

Education is the period of management when a greyhound transitions to training in the industry. This period is sometimes referred to as 'breaking-in'.

Pre-training is the period of training before the greyhound progresses to full time racing.

During education, pre-training and training, greyhounds must:

- be handled, exercised, socialised and trained in accordance with the EHMP or Table 1. of this Code
- be housed in accordance with Section 4. of this Code
- be exposed to multiple opportunities for isolation from other greyhounds and humans, except where the greyhound displays signs of stress during isolation. This can be part of race crate training or other training activities
- be monitored for signs of stress, poor acclimatisation, and the development of behavioural stereotypies. Appendix 1 of this Code lists common signs of stress and behavioural stereotypies in greyhounds and possible intervention options.

It is also recommended that during this time, greyhounds are regularly exposed to:

- starting boxes
- travelling in cars and trailers
- circular training facilities
- straight tracks
- lures.

The EHMP must include intervention and management actions for greyhounds showing signs of poor acclimatisation, stress and/or the development of behavioural stereotypies. It must also include protocols for socialisation and enrichment during education, pre-training and training.

Management of stress in Greyhounds

Observations of any signs of stress, poor acclimatisation, or development of behavioural stereotypies must be recorded and used as a management tool for assessing the acclimatisation of the greyhound to new housing or changes to daily routine.

If signs of severe stress are observed, action must be taken immediately to alleviate the stress or advice obtained from a veterinary surgeon.

If signs of stress, poor acclimatisation or development of behavioural stereotypies are recorded for more than two consecutive days, the possible source of stress must be identified and action taken to alleviate the stress.

If signs of stress identified are related to small race kennel housing (3 to 10 sqm), the greyhound must be:

- moved to a pen of larger size, or other measures taken to reduce stress
- regularly monitored.

If the greyhound shows signs of reduced stress, the greyhound may begin a program of gradual, incremental introduction to small pen sizes. If the greyhound does not show obvious signs of improvement over a period of two to three days, a veterinary surgeon must be consulted.

6.5 Retirement and rehoming of greyhounds

Owners must carefully consider and plan appropriate retirement or rehoming options for their greyhound well in advance of when that retirement might occur.

When a greyhound is identified as unsuitable for racing or breeding and is suitable for rehoming, every effort must be made to rehome that greyhound to an appropriate home.

The last registered owner, or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time, must report to RWWA Stewards, by lodgement of the prescribed form, the retirement or re-homing of a greyhound as per the requirements of R106.

All greyhounds being retired must be:

- rehomed to a suitable home, where health and temperament of the greyhound have been assessed as suitable for rehoming, or
- rehomed through Greyhounds As Pets, or
- rehomed through a greyhound rehoming group, or
- kept as a pet, or
- euthanased by a veterinary surgeon, only where that veterinary surgeon certifies in writing to RWWA that such euthanasia is recommended due to health or behaviour problems or when an acceptable home cannot be found. The owner, or person responsible for the greyhound at the time of retirement, is required to demonstrate that suitable effort has been made to rehome the greyhound in accordance with the local RWWA rules of greyhound racing.

Greyhounds being rehomed directly to a member of the public must be surgically sterilised prior to moving to their new home.

Greyhounds must not be surrendered to a pound.

RWWA must be notified of the name, address, local government area, phone number and any other relevant contact details of the new owner (including a rehoming organisation) in the format approved by RWWA.

Records on unsuccessful attempts to suitably rehome a greyhound, including agencies contacted, must be retained by the Person in Charge or the RWWA registered greyhound owner and provided to RWWA Stewards.

6.5.1 Preparing a greyhound for retirement or rehoming

The last registered owner, or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time is responsible for ensuring their greyhound(s) undergoes retirement and rehoming preparations.

Where a retirement and rehoming program undertaken by a Person in Charge differs from that outlined in this Code, this must be detailed and approved as part of the EHMP.

Preparation weeks 1 to 4

Once a greyhound has been deemed unsuitable for racing or breeding, whether during education (breaking-in) or later in the greyhound's racing career, the greyhound should be spelled for at least four weeks. During this four week period:

- the greyhound's diet must be adjusted, in accordance with the EHMP, to increase weight
- the greyhound's exercise regime must be slowly decreased

- the greyhound must be transitioned to housing of at least 15 sqm (retiring greyhounds can be kept in 3 to 10 sqm kennels overnight).

Minimum socialisation, handling, and enrichment requirements must be met during this time (see Table 1 of this Code).

If a greyhound is deemed unsuitable for racing or breeding prior to education and pre-training, they are not required to complete the spelling period.

Preparation weeks 5 and 6

After spelling, greyhounds must be moved to an outdoor pen or to within a home. It is recommended that greyhounds are housed in a family environment and kept in the backyard; however this may not be possible due to inadequate fencing and/or the presence of small dogs, cats and/or children.

During preparation weeks 5 and 6, greyhounds must be:

- walked for 20 minutes per day in public, muzzled and on a lead at all times
- acclimatised with environmental landscapes such as visiting dog parks, visiting busy shopping strips and being socialised with other dogs
- exposed daily to different surfaces and people in a non-training or racing setting
- provided with daily periods of isolation from other greyhounds and humans, starting with 30 minutes and gradually increasing to three to four hours in duration.
- During Week 6, greyhounds may be exposed to larger dogs (not greyhounds) on a lead in a public setting.

Preparation week 7 and onwards

Greyhounds must be walked for 20 minutes per day in public, muzzled and on a lead. Opportunities for socialisation of the greyhound with other breeds is encouraged.

Behaviour of greyhounds being introduced to new environments, people and animals must be monitored and the interaction immediately ceased if the greyhound shows signs of fear, predatory or aggressive behaviour including barking, lunging, growling, snapping, stalking, shaking, cowering and freezing.

Support from a veterinary surgeon or GAP must be sought if the greyhound continues to show excessive fear behaviours, aggressive or predatory behaviours towards small dogs and/or other animals.

Rehoming without retirement and rehoming program

Where a greyhound has not completed any preparation period or program (either as per this Code or any other plan), or is owned by a RWWA registered owner who has not appointed a person with an EHMP to carry out retirement and rehoming duties for that greyhound, the greyhound may be rehomed if accompanied by:

- a greyhound rehoming statement outlining the housing, feeding and exercise regime of the greyhound for the previous three months, and
- a statement from the Person in Charge or RWWA registered owner about the health and behaviour of the greyhound at the time of rehoming.

The new owner must sign a greyhound adoption declaration that states they understand the greyhound's preparation for rehoming has not been completed. This declaration must also be signed by the current Person in Charge or RWWA registered owner and provided to RWWA.

6.6 Exercise, socialisation and enrichment

All greyhounds must be provided with a minimum amount of daily: exercise, socialisation and enrichment.

Dogs are highly social animals and housing greyhounds under conditions of individual housing may inhibit their ability to demonstrate the freedom to express normal behaviour: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind. Co-housing of compatible adult dogs should be considered where appropriate and conditions allow, providing that the living space made available for co-housing dog meets the minimum standards in section 4. of this Code.

Young greyhounds must be provided with a structured programme of controlled exposure to a range of stimuli from an early age. The stimuli should represent likely scenarios that the greyhound will experience in later life, such as exposure to other breeds of dogs. Such protocols should be based around knowledge of the dog's socialisation period.

Where exercise, socialisation and enrichment practices differ from the minimum requirements outlined in Table 1 of this Code, they must be detailed in the approved EHMP. Practices must be specific to the lifecycle stage of greyhounds and must account for extreme weather conditions where applicable.

These activities are considered cumulative throughout the day and, dependent on age, include aspects of normal regimes such as:

- Physical contact with the dog (handling) – e.g. during leading, grooming, patting, checking, treating.
- Exposure to humans – e.g. feeding, cleaning, toileting playing, training, exercise, grooming, bathing.
- Exposure to other compatible animals – e.g. other greyhounds, other breeds of dog, or other pet species such as cats, horses etc.
- Different surfaces (other than the required pen or yard flooring stipulated in section 4. of this Code) or environmental stimuli – e.g. exposure to racing equipment, music, odours, bones, food based enrichment, toys.
- Training activities – e.g. trialling, racing, leading, galloping.

If using treadmills, greyhounds must be closely supervised at all times by a staff member. A treadmill can be used to assist in exercising greyhounds, and for rehabilitative purposes, but should not be seen as a replacement for external leash walking and environmental stimulation.

Greyhounds must not be exercised in any way attached to a motorised vehicle.



Table 1. Minimum exercise, socialisation and enrichment for greyhounds

Category	Exercise, socialisation and enrichment
<p>0–4 weeks*</p> <p>Requirements also apply to orphaned puppies unless a veterinary surgeon advises otherwise.</p>	<p>Any combination of the following activities daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • normal activity within the whelping box and mother’s pen area • exposure to a variety of different surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures • exposure to humans through daily handling as appropriate, with at least five minutes of human handling per puppy from no later than three weeks of age.
<p>4–8 weeks*</p>	<p>Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of 30 minutes daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • normal activity and play within the mother’s pen area (this can include playing with toys and interaction with humans) • exposure to humans through handling and interactive play using toys. <p>Exposure to a variety of surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures.</p> <p>A variety of toys, rotated weekly within the enclosure, to develop motor skills and play behaviour.</p>
<p>8–16 weeks*</p>	<p>Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of 50 minutes daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • run or play time within a secure area outside of the primary greyhound housing area • being taught to walk on a lead and/or play chasing games • exposure to humans through handling and interactive play using toys • exposure to a variety of other vaccinated dogs that are socially compatible and microchipped. <p>Exposure to a combination of the following on a weekly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variety of surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures • a variety of toys, within the enclosure, to develop motor skills and play behaviour • different environmental stimuli.
<p>16 weeks to commencement of training and racing</p>	<p>Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of five hours daily: exercise in the form of training, free play exercise, walking on a lead or racing access to off lead free play exercise in an exercise yard breaks from their housing pen (e.g. toileting, day yard, etc.) exposure to humans through daily handling and interactive play using toys exposure to a variety of other vaccinated dogs that are socially compatible and microchipped.</p> <p>Exposure to a combination of the following on a weekly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different environmental stimuli • a variety of racing-related activities such as starting boxes, travel in cars and trailers, circular training facilities, straight tracks, and lures or race-day cages.
<p>Training and Racing</p>	<p>General protocols for exercise, socialisation and enrichment during education, pre-training, training and racing must be outlined in the EHMP.</p> <p>Note: The EHMP does not need to list education, pre-training, training or racing practices or methods. Pre-race day, race-day and post-race day exercise is not required if the greyhound requires resting.</p>

Category	Exercise, socialisation and enrichment
Pregnant females	<p>Any combination of the following activities daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • daily exercise, including on-lead exercise or off-leash in a secure fenced area being directly monitored and supervised • access to an exercise yard • exposure to humans through handling where appropriate. <p>Exposure to the following on a weekly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different environmental stimuli as appropriate. This can include chew toys (e.g. rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, chew/food toys, bones etc.). <p>Exercise modifications must be under the direction of a veterinary surgeon.</p>
Lactating females	<p>Any combination of the following activities daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walked on a lead from seven days post-whelping, unless the female shows signs of stress • off-leash exercise in a secure fenced area being directly monitored or supervised • access to an exercise yard • exposure to humans through handling where appropriate. <p>Exposure to the following on a weekly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different environmental stimuli as appropriate. This can include chew toys (e.g. rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, chew/food toys, bones etc.). <p>Exercise modifications must be under the direction of a veterinary surgeon.</p>
Spelling and breeding	<p>Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of 60 minutes daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gentle exercise daily in an area containing natural daylight • walking on a lead • access to an exercise yard • exposure to humans through handling and interactive play using toys • exposure to a combination of the following on a weekly basis: • different environmental stimuli as appropriate. This can include chew toys (e.g. rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, chew/food toys, bones etc.).
Dogs/puppies who are injured, ill, or recovering from ailment or surgery (can include orphaned puppies)	<p>For any greyhounds undergoing treatment, exercise, socialisation and enrichment will be under the guidance of a veterinary surgeon.</p> <p>For greyhounds with injuries that are minor and do not require veterinary treatment, exercise, socialisation and enrichment will be in accordance with protocols in the EHMP</p>

**The exercise, socialisation and enrichment requirements from zero to 16 weeks are based on an average litter size of six puppies. These requirements must be applied on a pro-rata basis for any litters smaller or larger than six puppies.*

7. Movement, transfer and sale of greyhounds

All greyhounds being sold, given away or moved from the establishment must be accompanied by an up to date greyhound information record. The greyhound information record must include:

- details of any known physical abnormality, injury, illness, behavioural problem or issue affecting the greyhounds ongoing health and/or welfare
- any treatment that the greyhound is receiving or requires
- where a veterinary surgeon has provided advice, how any abnormality may affect the short and long term health and welfare of the greyhound.

All greyhounds being sold, given away or transferred to a new RWWA registered owner must:

- have current vaccinations
- if surgically sterilised, be accompanied by a copy of the sterilisation certificate
- be transferred or sold in compliance with RWWA requirements in place at that time in relation to the transfer or sale of greyhounds.

Greyhound puppies may be sold, given away or transferred to a new RWWA registered owner at any time but they must not permanently leave the establishment before eight weeks of age. They may be transported away from the establishment only for short periods for grooming, training and veterinary attention.

With the exception of providing an up to date greyhound information record for each greyhound, these requirements do not apply for short-term transfers (i.e. four weeks or less).

7.1 Movement, transfer or sale of greyhounds out of the industry

Greyhounds sold, given away or transferred to a person or moved to an establishment (including a greyhound rehoming group) that is not registered with RWWA, or any other Australian or New Zealand greyhound racing jurisdiction, must:

- have current vaccinations
- be surgically sterilised before leaving the greyhound establishment, except where the receiving party is GAP or a greyhound rehoming organisation who has protocols in place to surgically sterilise the greyhound
- if surgically sterilised, be accompanied by a copy of the sterilisation certificate
- be accompanied by their greyhound information record, including any treatment plans.

RWWA must be notified of the name, address, local government area, phone number and contact details of the new owner (including a greyhound rehoming organisation). RWWA must also be provided with a copy of the greyhound's sterilisation certificate where appropriate.

New owners must be provided with literature about:

- appropriate feeding
- exercise
- parasite control

- housing
- responsible pet ownership, including current legislation covering the registration of pet greyhounds with local councils and any available training opportunities
- the importance of greyhound training and socialisation
- vaccination.

Literature is available free of charge through local councils, GAP website or on the RWWA website.

7.2 Guarantee for sale or transfer of greyhounds out of the industry

This guarantee applies only to RWWA registered owners rehoming greyhounds to independent community members who are not registered with RWWA. It does not apply to a greyhound rehomed through GAP or any other adoption agency, rescue group or shelter.

If a greyhound is returned to its former RWWA registered owner within 21 days of sale or transfer, the former RWWA registered owner must take back the greyhound and refund 100 per cent of the purchase price (if any).

This guarantee applies only if the greyhound is:

- returned in the state at which it was sold, or
- accompanied by a statement from a veterinary surgeon that the greyhound is unacceptable for health or behavioural reasons that were likely to have been known at the time of sale or transfer.



8. Transport of Greyhounds

The purpose of Transport of Greyhounds standards is to assist participants in providing a safe and healthy environment for their greyhounds whilst being transported by road. Adherence to minimum prescribed standards will ensure that transport stress and injury are minimised and that greyhounds arrive at their destination in the best possible condition.

Participants must ensure that at all times their greyhounds are transported in a way that does not cause injury or stress and prevents escape from the vehicle or trailer.

Participants must ensure that the mode of transport used has no protruding structures or materials that could injure greyhounds during transport.

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

Where the RWWA Hot Weather Racing Policy provisions are enacted at times of high ambient temperature greyhounds must not be left unattended in a vehicle or trailer for any length of time.

Where the Hot Weather Racing Policy provisions are not enacted greyhounds must not be left unattended in any trailer or vehicle for more than one hour without inspection.

Collars and leads should be placed so as to avoid becoming entangled with the greyhound/s.

In the case of extended journeys, for each hour of travelling time a break in the journey must be provided to allow for inspection and provision of water. A break should consist of being let out of the mode of transport for at least ten minutes.

Trailers and vehicles must have adequate and functioning ventilation. Protect greyhounds against extremes of temperature at all times (the recommended temperature range is between 16°C and 24°C). In conditions of high ambient temperature air-conditioning or cooling mats should be provided in line with RWWA's Hot Weather Racing Policy.

Greyhounds must be afforded sufficient room to enable them to sit and/or stand comfortably and without restriction.

Confinement in a transport cage must only be at the direction of a veterinary surgeon.

Participants must ensure that their greyhounds travel in suitable modes of transport. These may include:

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

Modes of transport that are not permitted include; wire cages in trailers or utilities, etc. which are open to the elements, and non-ventilated or non-insulated trailers.

8.1 Trailer minimum standards

- Trailer must be clean, registered and roadworthy.
- Doors, latches and hinges must be in working order and securely fixed to the frame.
- Doors must have a latching mechanism that prevents the possibility of being opened from inside or other inadvertent opening. It is recommended that the doors are externally lockable or can be secured externally by way of a pin / bolt that prevents opening.
- Greyhounds over the age of 16 weeks must be transported in individual separate compartments. These should be securely fixed and allow for greyhounds to stand in a natural position without making contact with overhead structures.
- Trailer must have secure means of attaching to vehicle so as to prevent separation during travelling.

8.2 Vehicle minimum standards

- Vehicle must be clean, registered and roadworthy.
- Greyhounds must be securely restrained within the vehicle to avoid distracting the driver or sustaining injury to themselves and occupants in the event of an accident.
- Where more than one greyhound is to be transported within a vehicle, suitable barriers are to be in place to separate each greyhound where they are over the age of 16 weeks.



9. Appendix 1

This appendix is guidance only. It does not contain any requirements in addition to those outlined in earlier sections of this Code.

9.1 Identifying stress and anxiety in greyhounds

The behaviours listed below may indicate that a greyhound is stressed or anxious.

If these signs occur and do not resolve quickly (within a few minutes) then intervention is required.

First identify the trigger or cause of the stress or anxiety, then either remove the greyhound from the situation or remove the trigger or cause.

Signs of stress or anxiety

- cowering/shaking/shivering/trembling
- tucked tail
- ears back
- avoidance
- disengaging/loss of focus
- freezing in response to stimulus
- hypervigilance
- muscle tension
- panting – excessive and not caused by heat or exercise
- yawning
- teeth chattering
- lip smacking or licking
- cheek puffing
- unresponsive dilated pupils
- pacing, circling or spinning
- salivation.

Development of behavioural stereotypies

Behaviours that occur out of a normal context or are abnormal in frequency, duration or intensity, indicate the greyhound may be suffering from a stereotypical or compulsive behaviour. Stereotypies indicate poor welfare. If you notice any serious signs of suffering or welfare problems seek veterinary help.

Early intervention is the key to preventing the development of stereotypies.

Common stereotypical behaviours include:

Repetitive behaviour such as:

- excessive licking (environment, self, other greyhounds)
- bopping
- pacing/circling/spinning (worn pads)
- weaving

Destructive behaviour such as

- chewing wire, beds or bowls
- persistent barking or howling.

Preventing separation anxiety

Helping greyhounds learn to spend time alone can be useful to stop them from developing separation anxiety. Any time they spend alone must be a positive and relaxing experience. So, when separating the greyhound from companions and people, provide a desirable long lasting food item or toy. If the greyhound is stressed and doesn't settle within five minutes then end the session and next time, leave them alone for a shorter time so they do not become anxious.

Age	Indicators	Intervention Options
8-16 weeks	Prevention of separation anxiety	Isolation in novel area Isolation from humans and other greyhounds with a chew/ food toy or other reward. Frequency: twice weekly. Duration: 5 minutes building to 30 minutes.
16 weeks + ongoing	Prevention of separation anxiety	Isolation from greyhounds and humans. Frequency: twice per month. Duration: varying, from 30 minutes to an hour (vary length of time).
Retirement training	Prevention of separation anxiety	Isolation from greyhounds and humans. Frequency: three times weekly Duration: 1 hour building to 2-3 hours.

**If the greyhound is showing signs of stress at any stage, stop and seek help.*





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