

Variation of standards at direction of a veterinarian

Industry Practice Guide 19.0



NSW Greyhound Code of Practice

Relevant Standards

2.2 Unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian, greyhounds must be provided with raw meaty bones and/or chew toys to promote dental health. **R.**

3.11 Unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian, puppies must not be vaccinated before four weeks of age. **R.**

3.13 Unless a veterinarian has provided contrary advice in writing, greyhounds must be vaccinated against: distemper virus, parvovirus, canine adenovirus, parainfluenza virus, Bordetella bronchiseptica. **R.**

4.20 Unless directed by a veterinarian, puppies must not be sold, leased or otherwise transferred before eight weeks of age.

5.9 Unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian, greyhound housing areas must meet the minimum space requirements outlines in Table 1.

7.7 Puppies aged 8 – 16 weeks must be housed in groups or pairs, unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian.

The NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice allows variation of some standards at the direction of a veterinarian. The purpose of this guide is to provide more information about what this means and how standards may be varied.

Standards 2.2, 3.11, 3.13, 4.20, 5.9 and 7.7 all include the phrase 'unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian'. This means that a participant does not need to meet the standard if they are following the directions of a veterinarian. This allows flexibility in the care of greyhounds where it is needed.

In developing the standards in the Code of Practice, the Government recognised that some standards may not be appropriate for all greyhounds at all times. For example, Standard 7.13 provides that a greyhound's Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment plan can be temporarily varied if the greyhound is undergoing veterinary treatment.

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It be great to For example, if a puppy is unwell a veterinarian may direct that it be separated from its littermates until it recovers. This means that the participant is not required to comply with Standard 7.7 while the puppy is being treated. However, all the other Standards in the Code continue to apply.

A veterinarian will provide a direction only where it is necessary for the greyhound's health and well-being. Veterinarians must follow the Veterinary Practice Act 2003 and their own professional standards in treating animals.

If a veterinarian does advise or direct you to do something that requires you to vary a standard, it is advisable to get their instructions in writing. Inspectors will request this information if you are not complying with a particular standard, and may check with your veterinarian.

