

Greyhound Rehoming Policy

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| Purpose | <p>The purpose of this Policy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise opportunities for rehoming greyhounds that are retired from, or otherwise unsuitable for, racing; • ensure that any euthanasia of greyhounds is necessary, and in the best interests of the greyhound's welfare; and, • ensure that, where it is necessary to euthanase a greyhound, euthanasia is conducted in a humane manner. |
| Scope | <p>This Policy applies to all greyhound racing industry participants registered with the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission ("the Commission"), and all greyhounds owned or kept by a greyhound racing industry participant.</p> <p>This Policy also applies to greyhound racing industry participants licensed in other jurisdictions and operating in NSW.</p> |
| Related Policies | NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice |
| Definition | Rehoming means transfer of a greyhound to a person who is not a greyhound racing industry participant. |
| Breach | A failure to comply with the terms of this Policy may result in disciplinary action under the <i>Greyhound Racing Act 2017</i> . |
| Policy | |
| 1. Policy principles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are responsible for rehoming any greyhounds that they do not wish to retain. • Greyhounds which are retired from, or otherwise unsuitable for, racing should wherever possible have the opportunity to live out their natural life as a companion animal. |
| 2. Preparation for rehoming | <p>The NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice requires a greyhound owner who does not wish to retain a greyhound to ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, that the greyhound is prepared for rehoming as a companion animal.</p> <p>Participants preparing a greyhound that has ceased racing or training for racing for rehoming are recommended to provide a 'wind down' period of at least 30 days before being rehomed. The wind down period should include adjustments to the greyhound's diet, exercise program, and housing, along</p> |

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| | with safe and supervised introduction to unfamiliar environments/variety of people/other animals including stairs, variety of surfaces and noises to facilitate adjustment to life as a pet. |
| 3. Monitoring greyhounds in preparation for rehoming | <p>Participants must monitor greyhounds being introduced to new environments, people or animals. If the greyhound shows signs of fear or predatory or aggressive behaviour the interaction must be terminated.</p> <p>Participants must seek advice from a veterinary practitioner or animal behaviourist if the greyhound being prepared for rehoming shows excessive fear, aggressive or predatory behaviours towards people, small dogs and/or other animals.</p> |
| 4. Requirement to desex greyhound | <p>Unless advised otherwise by veterinary practitioner and approved by the Commission, a greyhound must be desexed prior to being rehomed as a companion animal.</p> <p>Participants may be able to access financial assistance from GRNSW through the Homing Assistance Scheme to have their greyhounds desexed and to help with other veterinary costs in preparing for rehoming.</p> |
| 5. Rehoming requirements | <p>A greyhound owner must make genuine attempts to rehome any greyhound that they do not wish to retain. Appropriate avenues for rehoming of a greyhound are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rehoming privately as a pet to a person who is not a registered greyhound racing industry participant, where the greyhound is entered onto the Companion Animals Register; or 2. Admission of the greyhound to GRNSW's Greyhound As Pets (GAP) program; or 3. Acceptance of the greyhound into another pet rescue or rehoming program. |
| 6. Exceptions to rehoming requirements | <p>The minimum rehoming requirements referred to in clause 5 do not apply in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where a greyhound has already been rehomed. For example, if a greyhound is rehomed privately, the rehoming requirements have been met and the owner simply needs to provide a completed Retirement Notification form to the Commission; or • where a greyhound is legally required or permitted to be euthanased (see clause 9). |
| 7. Information to be provided to new owner | <p>Participants rehoming a greyhound as a companion animal must provide the new owner with all relevant information on the greyhound's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing; • feeding; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exercise regime; • health; • behaviour; and, • preparation for rehoming. <p>Participants rehoming a greyhound as a companion animal must provide the new owner with a written statement detailing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any known abnormality (including current or past injury) affecting the greyhound; • any available information about how that abnormality may affect the short and long term health and well-being of the greyhound; • any veterinary treatment the greyhound is receiving or requires; and, • current vaccination certificates relating to the greyhound. <p>The owner of a greyhound being rehomed as a companion animal must advise the greyhound's new owner of their obligation to register the greyhound as a companion animal in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> and, for this purpose, direct them to the NSW Pet Registry at https://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au/#/.</p> |
| 8. Restrictions on rehoming | <p>Participants must not transfer a greyhound to a person who is under the age of 18 years.</p> <p>A greyhound owner must not transfer a greyhound in circumstances where the owner knows, or ought to know, or has reason to believe, that the greyhound may be euthanased.</p> <p>Retirement of registered greyhounds to NSW or interstate facilities conducting animal research, animal plasma or blood collection is not permitted under this policy. Participants transferring or surrendering greyhounds to these facilities may be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p>Transfer of a registered greyhound to a pound or shelter is permitted with the prior approval of the Commission. Approval will be granted only where the facility has a no-euthanasia policy in place.</p> <p>Participants must ensure that any greyhound which they surrender to GAP or a private rehoming organisation is in good condition and health with evidence of current vaccination status and parasite control. The greyhound's health record must be transferred with the greyhound to the new owner or the rehoming organisation.</p> |
| 9. Euthanasia | <p>Euthanasia of a registered greyhound is only permitted if one of the following preconditions has been satisfied:</p> <p>9.1 Medical Euthanasia where a veterinarian certifies that the greyhound is suffering from an intractable condition or injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life, such that it is inhumane or would otherwise compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia; or</p> |

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| | <p>9.2 Declared dangerous dog where the greyhound must be euthanased to comply with a court order, or the greyhound has been declared a dangerous or menacing dog under section 34 of the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i>; or</p> <p>9.3 Known risk to people where the greyhound has attacked or bitten a person causing an injury requiring medical attention; or</p> <p>9.4 Failed a temperament assessment to determine suitability to be rehomed as a pet where the greyhound has undergone a behaviour/temperament assessment by a registered veterinary practitioner, who is approved by GRNSW to temperament assess greyhounds for rehoming suitability, which has concluded the greyhound's behaviour is consistent with a risk of aggression towards people or other animals that makes it unsuitable to rehome and recommends euthanasia.</p> <p>Note A: in cl 9.3 where a greyhound has caused a bite injury to a person that requires medical attention, the serious behavioural condition exception may not apply if the greyhound was being teased, abused, or assaulted at the time. Proof of medical attention by a medical practitioner is required to be provided to the Commission.</p> <p>Note B: Euthanasia of a greyhound must be performed by a registered veterinary practitioner using humane methods, unless in an emergency (see clause 11 of this Policy).</p> |
| 10. Euthanasia by a veterinary practitioner under clause 9 | <p>Clause 9 provides the only circumstances where a participant may request that a veterinary practitioner euthanase a registered greyhound in their custody.</p> <p>The participant must provide a completed Euthanasia of Greyhound – Vet Certification form to the Commission within 2 days of the greyhound's death. This form requires the euthanasing veterinarian to provide information and should be provided to the veterinarian by the custodian of the greyhound.</p> |
| 11. Euthanasia performed by a person other than a veterinary practitioner in an emergency | <p>Euthanasia of a greyhound may be performed by a person who is not a veterinarian only in an emergency where the euthanasia is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • necessary to relieve the animal's suffering, and • a veterinarian is unable to attend in a timely manner, or transporting the animal to a veterinarian would unreasonably prolong or exacerbate the animal's suffering, and • only after a veterinarian has been consulted. |

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| 12. Notification requirements | <p>Rehomed greyhounds Where a greyhound is rehomed to a person or organisation which is not an industry participant (including GAP), the relinquishing owner must, within 10 days of the greyhound leaving their care, notify the Commission by lodging a completed Retirement Notification form.</p> <p>Euthanasia under clause 9 Where a greyhound is euthanased under clause 9, the owner must lodge with the Commission a completed Euthanasia of Greyhound – Vet Certification form, within 2 days of the euthanasia being performed.</p> <p>Euthanasia by a person other than a veterinary practitioner in an emergency Where a greyhound is euthanased by someone other than a veterinary practitioner in an emergency situation, the owner must, within 2 days of the euthanasia being performed, lodge with the Commission a completed Emergency Euthanasia of Greyhound – Not by Veterinary Practitioner - Notification form.</p> |
| Effective Date | 1 May 2023 (revised from Policy dated 1 December 2019) |
| Last amended | 1 May 2023 |
| Related forms | GWIC01-01 – Retirement Notification |
| | GWIC01-02 – Euthanasia of Greyhound Vet Certification |
| | GWIC01-04 – Emergency Euthanasia of Greyhound – Not by Veterinary Practitioner Notification |