

Space requirements for greyhound kennels

Industry Practice Guide 18.0



Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice

Relevant standards

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

Minimum requirements for one greyhound:

Pen (kennel)

Width	Height	Total area
1.2 metres	1.8 metres	3.5m ²

Minimum requirements for two greyhounds

Width	Height	Total area
2.4 metres	1.8 metres	7m ²

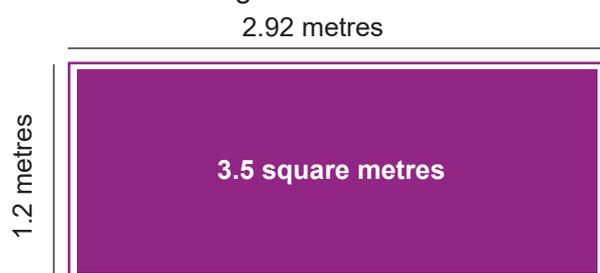
(Space requirements for mating and whelping greyhounds are detailed on page 11 of the Code.)

One of the most common questions participants have about the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice is the space requirements for kennels.

The Code specifies new standards for kennel size but also provides time for participants to meet the new standards. The purpose of this Guide is to explain how the provisions in the Code work.

What are the new standards for kennel size?

The NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice specifies that unless a veterinarian directs otherwise, a kennel for a single adult greyhound must be at least 3.5 square metres in size. The kennel must be a minimum of 1.2 metres wide. In order to meet the minimum space requirement a kennel that is 1.2 metres wide, for example, would need to be 2.92 metres long. All kennels must be at least 1.8 metres high.



Why has the standard changed?

Previously, the standard size for a kennel for a single adult greyhound was 3 square metres.

In developing the Code of Practice, the Government was aware that the Animal Welfare Code for Breeding Dogs and Cats specifies a minimum kennel size of 3.5 square metres for a dog the size of a greyhound. The Government decided that standards in the two codes of practice should be the same.

When do I need to comply with the new standard?

In the introduction to the Code, clause 1.6.1 states that existing greyhound housing areas will be deemed to comply with Standard 5.9 until 31 December 2030.

This is what is known as a 'deeming provision'. A deeming provision states how a particular standard is to be applied. The purpose of the deeming provision is to give participants time to upgrade their kennels to meet the new Standard 5.9. Participants with existing kennels will have until the end of 2030 to meet Standard 5.9. They will then be able to apply for up to another five years (that is, until the end of 2035).

The deeming provision does not apply to new greyhound housing areas. From 1 January 2021, any new kennels that are built must meet the new standards – including Standard 5.9.

Importantly, the deeming provision set out in clause 1.6.1 does not apply where the Commission determines that existing greyhound housing areas represent a significant welfare or safety risk to greyhounds.

What is a 'significant welfare or safety risk'?

Where a greyhound has sustained - or it at risk of sustaining - an injury, illness or behavioural issue that is related to the size of its kennel, the Commission considers that a significant welfare or safety risk to a greyhound may be present.

The following actions would be evidence of a significant welfare or safety risk:

Space requirements for greyhound kennels

Industry Practice Guide 18.0

- a direction to remove the greyhound from its greyhound housing area to prevent it suffering illness or injury, or
- the issue of an animal welfare direction relating to greyhound housing areas under section 24N of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*, or
- the seizure of the greyhound.

Where the Commission identifies a significant welfare or safety risk, the participant will be notified that clause 1.6.2 may be invoked. This notice will be in addition to any directions issued by Inspectors, which means that participants will have at least two opportunities to remedy the issues before clause 1.6.2 is invoked.

Decisions to invoke clause 1.6.2 are to be made by the Commission's Chief Executive Officer and at least one Commissioner. Such decisions can be appealed, to the Racing Appeals Tribunal.

What about veterinary directions?

Standard 5.9 states that 'unless a veterinarian directs otherwise, greyhound housing areas must meet minimum space requirements'.

This means that a participant does not need to meet Standard 5.9 if they are following the directions of a veterinarian. The purpose of this is to allow for flexibility in the care of greyhounds.

For Standard 5.9 to be varied in this way, a greyhound must be under the care of a veterinarian and the veterinarian must provide a direction that relates to the size of the greyhound's kennel.

What happens at the end of 2030?

At the end of 2030, participants can apply for extra time to meet Standard 5.9.

Clause 1.6.3 of the Code allows an extension of the deeming provision for up to five years to participants who have demonstrated a commitment to high welfare standards and either:

- a) intend to leave the industry within the five years, or
- b) have made investment in greyhound housing areas after 1 January 2017 that continue to represent quality housing amenity.

Clause 1.6.3 is intended to allow people who are planning to leave the industry to do so without having to rebuild their kennels before they leave. Similarly, people who built good kennels not long before the Code is introduced will have extra time to comply with Standard 5.9.

All greyhound housing areas must comply with Standard 5.9 by the end of 2035.

