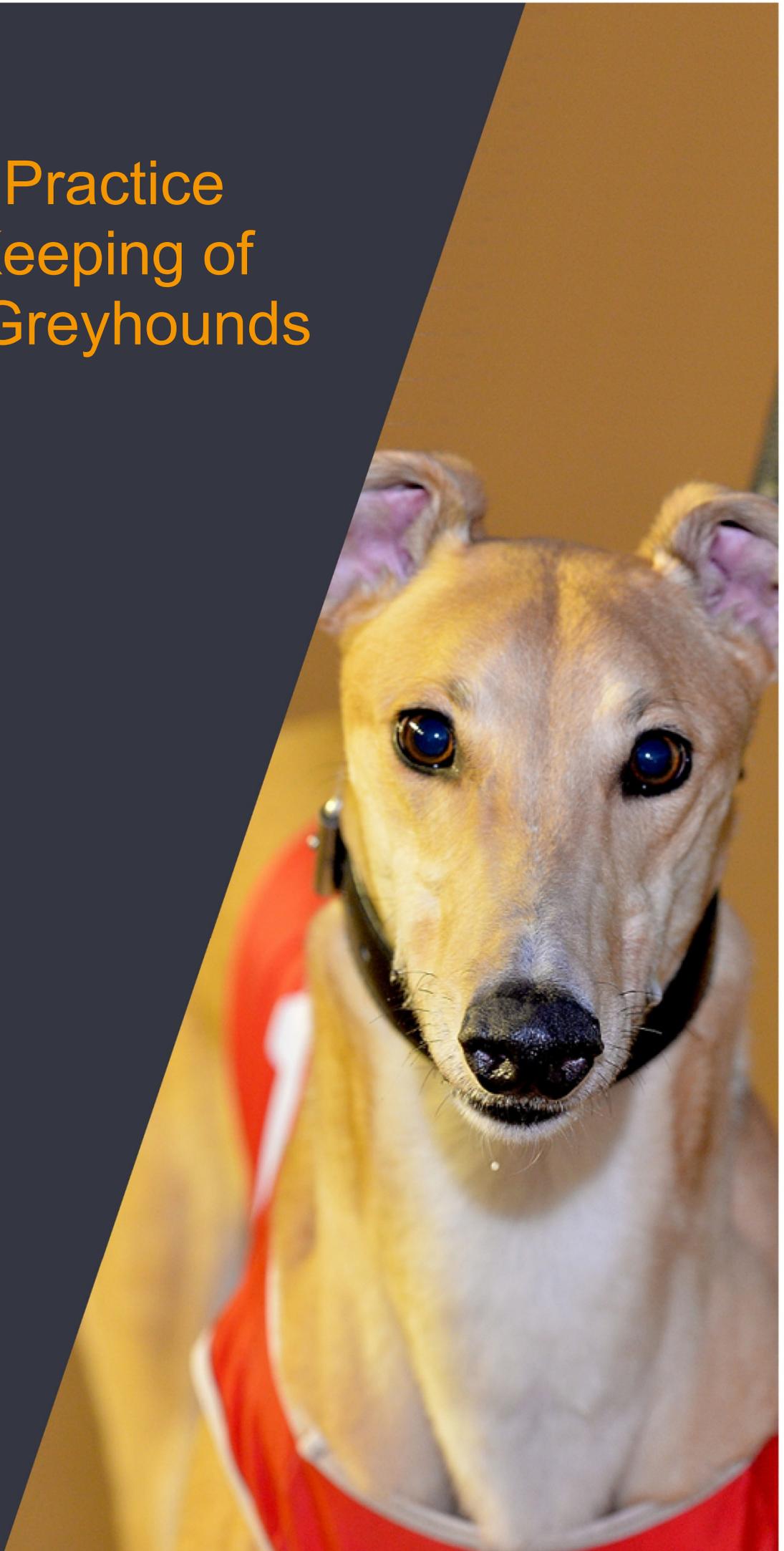


# Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds

April 2018



**Signed**



**Hon Jaala Pulford MP  
Minister for Agriculture**

23/04/2018

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# 1. Introduction

The purpose of this Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds (Code) is to specify minimum standards for staffing, accommodation, management, breeding and care required to meet the physical and behavioural needs of a racing greyhound throughout its lifecycle.

This Code is made under section 63AC of Part 4AA of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Vic) and applies to the keeping of all racing greyhounds registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV).

Compliance with this Code and its provisions is mandatory from 1 January 2020 for any person who keeps racing greyhounds. Existing establishments may delay compliance with section 6.7 of this Code (Facilities), as far as the provisions relate to facility construction, where all facilities must be compliant upon their replacement, or by a date specified by GRV where any welfare or safety issues are identified at that establishment referable to non-compliant facilities.

All establishments that keep racing greyhounds must also comply with state and local government legislation, and permits and guidelines issued or made under such law (such as GRV and planning requirements).

## 1.1 Interpretation

In this Code:

- Where there are different or differently expressed obligations on a person at different places in this Code, those obligations are cumulative and all must be complied with.
- A reference to legislation refers to the most recently amended form of that legislation.
- A reference to a code, guidelines or another document issued by an industry or standard setting body refers to that document as made at the date of this Code.

## 2. Definitions

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

**Act:** means the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Vic).

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

**Authorised officer:** means a person appointed as an authorised officer under section 71, 71A, 72 or 72A of the Act.

**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 material:** 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 6.7.10 of this Code.

**DEDJTR:** means Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (Victoria).

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

**Educator:** means a person who educates or re-educates a greyhound to chase a lure or compete in a race and familiarises the greyhound with the race track environment before it progresses to racing with a trainer.

**Emergency:** is as defined in the *Emergency Management Act 2013* (Vic).

**Emergency (euthanasia):** for the purposes of emergency euthanasia, means when a greyhound has a fractured spine or severe head trauma and cannot be moved, or any other circumstance as determined and approved by a veterinary practitioner.

**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 4.1 of this Code.

**Euthanasia Certificate:** means a certificate provided by a veterinary practitioner as set out in section 4.3 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.

**Experience:** means the observation of, or practical acquaintance with, facts or events. For this Code, experience includes an accumulation of knowledge equivalent to (or in excess of) any training provided by GRV.

**First aid:** means immediate care and treatment administered to a greyhound with an injury or illness. First aid does not include veterinary attention.

**GAP:** means a Greyhound Adoption Program operated by GRV.

**General health check:** means physical examination by a veterinary practitioner 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 GRV greyhound.

**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.

**GRV:** means Greyhound Racing Victoria.

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

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

**GRV policy:** means a policy developed and mandated by GRV.

**GRV registered greyhound owner/ GRV registered owner:** means the person who is registered with GRV as the owner of the greyhound.

**GRV Steward:** means a person appointed by GRV as a Steward.

**Greyhound record:** means a document in which a GRV 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).

**Heritable defect:** means the diseases relevant to dogs as set out in the Schedule to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (Vic).

**Housing acclimatisation program:** means a program to acclimatise the greyhound to racing kennels as described in Section 6.3.9 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 practitioner:** means a veterinary practitioner 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:** means a series of pens designed to house multiple greyhounds or puppies.

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

- breeding
- whelping
- rearing
- education (also referred to as breaking-in)
- training
- racing
- boarding
- any other activity that involves the care of a GRV 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.

**Mating period:** means the period of time during which the series of mating events occur to achieve a pregnancy.

**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 practitioner, 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, that does not restrict normal and necessary behaviour such as panting and drinking.

**Notice of Intent to Euthanase:** means a notice submitted to GRV before the euthanasia of a greyhound in accordance with the requirements set out by GRV from time to time.

**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.

**POCTAA:** means the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (Vic).

**Puppy:** means a greyhound aged less than 16 weeks.

**Qualifications / Qualified:** means a minimum formal qualification endorsed by GRV in the management, training, educating (including breaking-in) or breeding of greyhounds.

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

**Racing greyhound:** see GRV greyhound.

**Rearer:** means a person 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 greyhound:** 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.

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

**Sell:** means to barter or exchange and includes agreeing to sell, offering or exposing for sale, keeping or having in possession for sale, sending, forwarding, delivering or receiving for or on sale or authorising, directing, causing, suffering, permitting or attempting any such acts or things, in accordance with the latest amended definition of "sell" in section 3(1) of the *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic).

**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 GRV greyhound, including transfers related to the hiring out or leasing of a greyhound:

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

**Veterinary attention:** means the examination and provision of appropriate treatment of a greyhound by a veterinary practitioner in accordance with the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997* (Vic).

**Veterinary practitioner:** means a veterinary practitioner registered under the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997* (Vic).

**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 Kennels:** means housing for a whelping greyhound and her puppies up to 16 weeks of age.

**Whelping Pens:** means pens 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.

**Zoonoses:** means animal diseases that are transmissible to humans.

## 3. Staffing

All properties that keep greyhounds must be compliant with the minimum staffing requirements set out in this Code. Establishments must have a sufficient number of suitably Qualified or Experienced persons, hereafter referred to as staff, to care for the greyhounds. Those staff must collectively possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of greyhounds in accordance with this Code.

Every establishment must have at least one nominated Person In Charge. The Person In Charge may also be the owner of the establishment and may or may not be the GRV registered owner of some or all of the greyhounds at the establishment.

### 3.1 Person in Charge

The Person in Charge of a greyhound establishment is responsible for:

- the health and welfare of all greyhounds housed at the establishment and any of those greyhounds being transported
- the overall management of the establishment
- developing an Establishment and Health Management Plan (EHMP) in accordance with section 4.1 of this Code and ensuring the EHMP's implementation
- ensuring compliance with this Code and any relevant state or local legislation and other codes of practice
- ensuring individual greyhound records are established and/or maintained as required for each registered greyhound, while that greyhound is in their care
- promoting and supporting relevant formal and informal training for staff
- ensuring they have a written agreement with sufficient veterinary practitioners to provide greyhounds with prompt veterinary attention (other than first aid) and if necessary, euthanasia
- ensuring greyhounds receive prompt first aid, veterinary attention and/or treatment as appropriate for the health condition being treated
- notifying GRV registered owners (or their authorised representatives) of boarded greyhounds as soon as possible when a greyhound is observed to be ailing or injured or promptly after a veterinary practitioner has examined the greyhound
- protecting staff health at the establishment
- acting on reports from staff of any issues that affect the operation and management of the establishment
- ensuring the maintenance and retention of establishment records as set out in section 5.1.

The Person in Charge may appoint (whether through employment or otherwise) other persons with appropriate Experience or Qualifications to undertake duties as outlined in this Code.

If the Person in Charge does not have experience or qualifications in the management of greyhounds, they must appoint person(s) with appropriate Experience or Qualifications.

Persons appointed by the Person in Charge must, as soon as practicable, notify the Person in Charge of any signs that a greyhound's health or welfare is compromised.

## 3.2 Staff ratio

All establishments must ensure that the minimum number of staff are present at the establishment to fulfil their obligations under this Code.

### 3.2.1 Establishments with 50 or fewer greyhounds

For establishments with 50 or fewer greyhounds over 16 weeks of age, there are no minimum on-site staffing requirements other than what is required to implement this Code.

To meet the requirements of this Code during the critical socialisation period for puppies, at least one staff member must be present on site for every 20 greyhounds aged between 0-16 weeks. This staff member must be present on-site for the time required to implement the applicable sections of this Code.

When a greyhound shows signs of whelping, is whelping, or is ill, at least one staff member must be on-site, including overnight, to administer the required care or treatment for the greyhound(s) (see section 6.3.6 for monitoring requirements of whelping greyhounds).

### 3.2.2 Establishments with 51 or more greyhounds

For a minimum of eight hours between 5.00am and 8.00pm, establishments with 51 or more greyhounds on-site must have:

- at least one staff member on-site where all greyhounds are over 16 weeks of age
- at least one staff member for every 20 greyhounds aged between 0-16 weeks
- at least one staff member per additional 25 greyhounds.

Overnight, that is outside of the hours of 5:00am to 8:00pm, establishments with 51 or more greyhounds on site must:

- have at least one staff member monitoring the greyhounds (whether on-site or remote), and
- have a clearly visible sign at the entrance of the housing area stating the contact details of at least one “on call” staff member, and
- ensure that overnight staff are available on-site to care for whelping, sick or injured greyhounds and to undertake emergency activities if necessary.

For establishments with 100 greyhounds or more, at least two staff members must be “on call” and able to attend the establishment within 30 minutes of being contacted in the event of an emergency.

#### **Note**

To meet the onsite staff requirements, a staff member may work an 8 hour shift, a split shift (or shifts) or multiple staff members may work divided shifts to the equivalent of 8 hours.

Overnight staffing requirements assume that all exercise, enrichment, socialisation, handling, feeding, cleaning and general care activities are undertaken between 5:00am and 8:00pm.

### **3.3 Mandatory training and education**

All new GRV participants must complete minimum mandatory training and education as required for registration with GRV. Evidence of completed training must be available upon request by an authorised officer.

It is strongly recommended that all GRV participants keeping racing greyhounds complete appropriate training and education to maintain the skills and/or experience necessary to comply with this Code.

Until required training is complete, establishment staff must work under the direct supervision of person(s) with suitable Experience and/or Qualifications

### **3.4 Staff health**

An establishment must protect staff health by providing all new staff with an induction session upon commencing work, that provides information and training on health, hygiene and safety.

This staff induction program must be outlined in the EHMP.

## 4. Establishment operation

### 4.1 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 practitioner initially and every three years thereafter. If there is a change in the veterinary practitioner supporting the establishment, the new veterinary practitioner must be provided with the EHMP as soon as practicable.

If the veterinary practitioner is also the Person in Charge or the establishment owner, then an independent veterinary practitioner 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 practitioner and submitted to GRV.

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 approved methods and personnel
- 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, GRV participant registration number (where applicable), experience and/or qualifications and training history
- a staff roster (where appropriate)
- the written veterinary practitioner agreement(s) including contact details for the general veterinary practitioner and emergency veterinary practitioner (where different).

## 4.2 Veterinary practitioner

The Person in Charge must enter a written agreement with at least one veterinary practitioner. It is recommended this agreement is with a veterinary practitioner who has relevant experience in greyhound health and management. This agreement must include the following standard veterinary services:

- the use of the veterinary practitioner's facilities for the treatment of greyhounds
- in the event of a biosecurity risk or outbreak (e.g. Canine Parvovirus), the supervision of greyhounds in isolation housing at the establishment or the provision of isolation housing at the veterinary practitioner's facilities if the establishment does not have separate isolation housing
- advice on, and sign off for, the relevant components of the EHMP

- provision of vaccination certificates and up to date health details for the greyhound record of each greyhound prior to that greyhound being transferred to another GRV registered owner or sold
- humane euthanasia in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.3 of this Code
- provision of veterinary assistance and/or attention in accordance with the EHMP within a reasonable time (relative to the condition reported by the Person in Charge or staff member)
- 24 hour contact or treatment or provision of services through an alternative 24 hour emergency practice.

### 4.3 Euthanasia

Euthanasia must be performed by a veterinary practitioner, except in exceptional emergency situations. In exceptional emergency situations, protocols for euthanasia as specified in the EHMP (including person(s) and method(s)) must be followed.

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.

The Person in Charge must obtain a Euthanasia Certificate from a veterinary practitioner for any greyhound euthanased (including a greyhound euthanased by a non-veterinary practitioner in an emergency). The Euthanasia Certificate must be provided to GRV once euthanasia has been carried out.

Puppies eight weeks and under requiring euthanasia must be euthanased by a veterinary practitioner.

Where a greyhound is to be euthanased for reasons other than medical, a copy of the Notice of Intent to Euthanase a GRV greyhound must be included in the greyhound record for that GRV greyhound.

#### Note

In an emergency situation, a veterinary practitioner must be contacted by phone. If the veterinary practitioner cannot provide veterinary attention within a reasonable amount of time, then the person identified in the EHMP may carry out that euthanasia in the manner approved by the veterinary practitioner.

### 4.4 Greyhound transport vehicle

All transport vehicles or trailers used to transport greyhounds must:

- protect greyhounds against extremes of temperature at all times (the recommended temperature range is between 16°C and 24°C), this may include the use of a rug or cooling jacket
- be constructed of materials and a design that:
  - prevents escape and minimises the risk of injury to greyhounds
  - provides enough space for greyhounds to sit, lie down, stand and turn around in a natural position without contacting overhead structures
  - allows for effective cleaning, disinfection and ventilation.

Other than in cases of exceptional circumstances, emergency, and puppies under 16 weeks of age, greyhounds must be individually restrained during transport or transported in separate compartments or cages.

If two greyhounds are transported in the cabin of a transport vehicle without a physical barrier, then the greyhounds must be individually restrained and muzzled, except for puppies under 16 weeks of age.

During transportation, greyhounds must be inspected at least every three hours unless it is unsafe to stop the vehicle. Inspections must occur more frequently if advised by a veterinary practitioner.

Greyhounds must not be able to distract the driver or cause injury to other greyhounds or occupants in the vehicle.

Greyhounds must not be housed in a transport vehicle or transport cage for more than 48 hours, unless approved by GRV for the purposes of a race-meeting (as defined by the *Racing Act 1958* (Vic)). Where a greyhound is being housed in a transport vehicle or transport cage for up to 48 hours, greyhounds must be removed from the cage every three hours during daylight hours to exercise and toilet.

Greyhounds must not be housed in airline crates for more than 24 hours.

Confinement in a transport cage under any other circumstances must only be at the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

**Note**

Refer to POCTAA for further transport requirements.

## 4.5 Security

Establishments must securely confine all greyhounds to prevent their escape from the property.

Kennel areas must be able to be securely locked.

Each individual kennel, cage, or pen must be fitted with a secure closing device that can only be opened by humans.

All security methods must allow for ready access to the greyhounds and exit of staff and greyhounds from the establishment in the event of an emergency.

There must be a minimum of two physical barriers between greyhounds and escape from the establishment at all times, unless the greyhounds are under supervision. Where greyhounds are housed in kennels, the door of a greyhound's pen is considered the first physical barrier to escape from the establishment.

While unsupervised, greyhounds must be safe from attack, stress or injury from other greyhounds, animals or people.

## 5. Records

The Person in Charge of a greyhound must ensure the greyhound is accompanied by its greyhound record when it moves out of the establishment, whether it be due to sale, retirement, rehoming or giveaway.

If an establishment ceases to operate, the Person in Charge must retain all greyhound records on hand at the time the establishment ceases to operate for no less than two years.

All records must be produced for physical inspection by an authorised officer immediately upon request, either electronically or in hard copy.

### 5.1 Establishment records

The Person in Charge must keep records of the following:

- selling, giving away and/or moving (both temporary and permanent) greyhounds from the establishment
- a copy of the veterinary practitioner's general health certificate for greyhounds sold, transferred or given away to a new owner
- a copy of literature provided to a new owner regarding the care of a greyhound, where sold or given away to a member of the public that is not a GRV participant
- all records relating to the purchase, acquisition or movement of greyhounds into the establishment, including the contact details of the previous owner and Person in Charge, the greyhound's previous location, microchip number, copies of transfer of ownership papers (where applicable) and up to date greyhound record at the time of arrival at the establishment.

Where staff are appointed by the establishment, a complete set of staffing rosters must be kept for a period of no less than 12 months.

### 5.2 Greyhound records

A greyhound record must be established for each individual greyhound from birth.

For each greyhound, the following information must be recorded in its greyhound record as acquired:

- name (or other identification)
- microchip number (when implanted)
- sex
- birth date
- distinguishing features
- dam and sire birth date, microchip number and owner details
- details of the new owner if sold, including the owner's name, address and contact number
- return records, including date, reason for return and copies of supporting documentation, where applicable

- a complete health care and veterinary history including:
  - vaccination records and matching vaccination certificates
  - internal and external parasite control (e.g. fleas, ticks or heartworm)
  - oral supplements and injected substances records
  - administration of any Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 drugs (by date, time, dose, route of administration, drug name and name of person giving the drug)
  - any injuries sustained by the greyhound and treatment provided (if applicable)
  - only where the greyhound is under treatment, daily observations, inspections and exercise, in accordance with the requirements of this Code
  - date and time of any treatment administered, person prescribing the treatment and the name and signature of the person administering the treatment
  - instructions for the health management of a greyhound under treatment, when that greyhound is moved to another establishment or person.
- the name and address of the current Person In Charge
- the date of rehoming to a shelter, rescue group, community foster care network or member of the public
- euthanasia records or death records including date and cause of death. In the event of euthanasia, records include copies of the Notice of Intent to Euthanase and Euthanasia Certificate.

### **5.3 Individual greyhound identification**

Every kennel and pen must clearly display a unique identifier (e.g. microchip number) that links back to a greyhound record.

If greyhounds are receiving additional or specialised care, the type of care must be clearly displayed on their kennel or pen. For female greyhounds, this information includes the number, birthdate, sex and details of offspring in her current litter.

## 6. Husbandry – management of greyhounds

### 6.1 Nutrition

Provision of nutrition, including food, supplements and injectable substances, 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 provided in sufficient quantity and nutritional quality. 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.

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 practitioner.

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 practitioner 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 must have access to a sufficient supply of fresh clean water at all times at the establishment, unless advised otherwise by a veterinary practitioner.

The recommended daily volume of water is approximately 50 millilitres 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 injectable substances

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

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

Injectable substances must be administered under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

## 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.

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

Except where a veterinary practitioner advises and records that treatment would prejudice the greyhound's health, 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).

All vaccinations must be given in accordance with the manufacturer's registered label requirements.

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 practitioner at each vaccination.

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

Except where a veterinary practitioner advises and records that treatment would prejudice the greyhound's health, 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.

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

All vaccinations must be given in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

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 practitioner at each vaccination and recorded in the greyhound's GRV treatment record book.

Testing for heartworm infection is recommended, if a greyhound has not been on a preventative program, prior to admission or mating.

### 6.2.3 Health checks and treatment plans

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

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

### 6.2.4 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.

### 6.2.5 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 practitioner
- under GRV 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.

## 6.3 Breeding

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

### 6.3.1 Heritable defects

All breeders must comply with POCTAA and the Code of Practice for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects that Cause Disease.

It is strongly recommended that all breeding greyhounds are genetically tested for any heritable defect before being bred with, where an effective and reliable test is commercially available. It is also recommended that a greyhound should not breed if a heritable defect is detected or known, including heritable defects not listed under POCTAA.

If a Person in Charge or GRV registered owner (if not the Person in Charge) is notified that a greyhound sold by them has been diagnosed by a veterinary practitioner as having a heritable defect, the establishment's Person in Charge or GRV registered owner (if not the Person in Charge) must stop breeding from that greyhound's parents until:

- at least one of the parents has been tested for the heritable defect, if that parent is still used for breeding and an acceptable test is available. If an acceptable test is not available, a veterinary practitioner must assess at least one of the parents for the heritable defect
- other offspring of those parents still residing at the establishment have been tested for the heritable defect, where an acceptable test is available.

If one or both parents have the heritable defect, then that pair must not be mated in future and genetic counselling must be obtained from a veterinary practitioner before continuing to breed those greyhounds with other greyhounds.

If any offspring have the heritable defect, then the Person in Charge of those offspring must develop a sale or euthanasia plan in conjunction with a veterinary practitioner, and all details about the heritable defect and likely outcomes for the greyhounds must be fully disclosed to their GRV registered owners and any prospective purchasers.

Any greyhounds in the establishment who carry recessive genes for any heritable defect that causes a disease or defect must not be bred together.

### 6.3.2 Breeding males

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

A male greyhound must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner 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 practitioner to state that the greyhound, at the time of examination, was suitable to breed.

### 6.3.3 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 practitioner:

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

The Person in Charge must obtain a certificate from a veterinary practitioner to state that the greyhound, at the time of examination, is suitable to breed or healthy after whelping (as appropriate).

A female greyhound must:

- have no more than three litters in her lifetime, or
- be approved by a veterinary practitioner and GRV to breed beyond three litters to a maximum of five litters, and
- not have a third litter until the first litter are at least 18 months of age.

#### 6.3.4 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 practitioner sought:

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

#### 6.3.5 Artificial Insemination

Artificial insemination must be conducted by a GRV approved person or a veterinary practitioner.

Surgical artificial insemination must be conducted by a veterinary practitioner and include appropriate pain relief during and post-surgery. The Person in Charge must seek written veterinary advice regarding greyhound after-care including advice on exercise post-surgery and during pregnancy.

#### 6.3.6 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 practitioner 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 practitioner.

### 6.3.7 Caesarean section

Greyhounds undergoing caesarean section must have the procedure performed by a veterinary practitioner and include appropriate pain relief during and post-surgery.

Wound care, as directed by a veterinary practitioner, must be provided for greyhounds post-surgery.

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

### 6.3.8 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 practitioner and act as directed by that veterinary practitioner.

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.

### 6.3.9 Rearing

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 practitioner must be sought if there are any concerns for the welfare of the puppies or female
- be housed in accordance with Table 2 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 practitioner 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, as reflected in the staffing ratio in section 3.2 of this Code. 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 9 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.

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.

## 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 Table 2 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 practitioner.

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 9 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 practitioner must be consulted.

## 6.5 Preparing a greyhound for retirement or rehoming

The GRV registered owner is responsible for ensuring their greyhound(s) undergoes retirement and rehoming preparations. A GRV registered owner may appoint (whether formally or informally) other persons with appropriate Experience or Qualifications to prepare their greyhound for retirement and rehoming.

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.

Where rehoming of a greyhound has occurred without a retirement and rehoming program, that greyhound must be accompanied by the documentation outlined in this Code (see overleaf).

### 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 must be spelled for at least four weeks unless otherwise approved by GRV. 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 9 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 practitioner or GRV 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 GRV 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 GRV 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 GRV registered owner and provided to GRV.

#### **6.5.1 Retirement and rehoming of greyhounds**

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.

All greyhounds being rehomed must be:

- rehomed to a suitable home, where health and temperament of the greyhound have been assessed as suitable for rehoming, or
- rehomed through GAP, or
- surrendered to a registered shelter or a rescue group or community foster care network, or
- kept as a pet, or
- euthanased by a veterinary practitioner when the greyhound has health or behaviour problems or when an acceptable home cannot be found.

Greyhounds being rehomed to a member of the public, a shelter or a rescue organisation/ community foster care network, must be desexed prior to moving to their new home.

Greyhounds must not be surrendered to a pound.

GRV must be notified of the name, address, local government area, phone number and any other relevant contact details of the new owner (including a shelter) in the format approved by GRV. The new owner must be provided with information about their legal obligations under the Act.

Records on unsuccessful attempts to suitably rehome a greyhound, including agencies contacted, must be retained by the Person in Charge or the GRV registered greyhound owner and shared with a veterinary practitioner if requested.

## 6.6 Exercise, socialisation and enrichment

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

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 6.7 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 supervised at all times by a staff member. Treadmills must not be the primary source of exercise for greyhounds unless being used for rehabilitative purposes following an injury.

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><b>0–4 weeks*</b>  <b>These requirements also apply to orphaned puppies unless a veterinary practitioner advises otherwise.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of the following activities daily:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- normal activity within the whelping box and mother’s pen area</li> <li>- exposure to a variety of different surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>4–8 weeks*</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of 30 minutes daily:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- normal activity and play within the mother’s pen area (this can include playing with toys and interaction with humans)</li> <li>- exposure to humans through handling and interactive play using toys.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exposure to a variety of surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures.</li> <li>• A variety of toys, rotated weekly within the enclosure, to develop motor skills and play behaviour.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8–16 weeks*</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of 50 minutes daily:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- run or play time within a secure area outside of the primary greyhound housing area</li> <li>- being taught to walk on a lead and/or play chasing games</li> <li>- exposure to humans through handling and interactive play using toys.</li> <li>- exposure to a variety of other vaccinated dogs that are socially compatible and microchipped.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exposure to a combination of the following on a weekly basis:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a variety of surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures</li> <li>- a variety of toys, within the enclosure, to develop motor skills and play behaviour</li> <li>- different environmental stimuli.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>16 weeks to commencement of training and racing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of five hours daily:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- exercise in the form of training, free play exercise, walking on a lead or racing</li> <li>- access to off lead free play exercise in an exercise yard</li> <li>- breaks from their housing pen (e.g. toileting, day yard, etc.)</li> <li>- exposure to humans through daily handling and interactive play using toys</li> <li>- exposure to a variety of other vaccinated dogs that are socially compatible and microchipped.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exposure to a combination of the following on a weekly basis:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- different environmental stimuli</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Category	Exercise, socialisation and enrichment
<b>Training and Racing</b>	<p>General protocols for exercise, socialisation and enrichment during education, pre-training, training and racing must be outlined in the EHMP.</p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>The EHMP does not need to list education, pre-training, training or racing practices or methods.</p> <p>Pre-race day, race-day and post-race day exercise is not required if the greyhound requires resting.</p>
<b>Pregnant females</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of the following activities daily: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- daily exercise, including on-lead exercise or off-leash in a secure fenced area being directly monitored and supervised</li> <li>- access to an exercise yard</li> <li>- exposure to humans through handling where appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exposure to the following on a weekly basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- different environmental stimuli as appropriate. This can include chew toys (e.g. rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, chew/food toys, bones etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Exercise modifications must be under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.</p>
<b>Lactating females</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of the following activities daily: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- walked on a lead from seven days post-whelping, unless the female shows signs of stress</li> <li>- off-leash exercise in a secure fenced area being directly monitored or supervised</li> <li>- access to an exercise yard</li> <li>- exposure to humans through handling where appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exposure to the following on a weekly basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- different environmental stimuli as appropriate. This can include chew toys (e.g. rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, chew/food toys, bones etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Exercise modifications must be under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.</p>
<b>Spelling and breeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of 60 minutes daily: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- gentle exercise daily in an area containing natural daylight</li> <li>- walking on a lead</li> <li>- access to an exercise yard</li> <li>- exposure to humans through handling and interactive play using toys</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Exposure to a combination of the following on a weekly basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- different environmental stimuli as appropriate. This can include chew toys (e.g. rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, chew/food toys, bones etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Dogs/puppies who are injured, ill, or recovering from ailment or surgery (can include orphaned puppies)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For any greyhounds undergoing treatment, exercise, socialisation and enrichment will be under the guidance of a veterinary practitioner.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

\*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.

## 6.7 Facilities

This section outlines the minimum housing requirements for keeping greyhounds.

Facilities must have appropriate fire extinguishers or other fire protection.

### 6.7.1 Disinfection and hygiene

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

The Person in Charge or staff at an establishment must:

- clean all pens and kennels used to house greyhounds at least once per day (or more often as required) by hosing or other appropriate means
- remove and dispose of all faeces, soiled bedding material and uneaten food before cleaning pens and kennels
- remove greyhounds from the housing before and during any hosing.
- disinfect pens, using hospital or veterinary grade disinfectants no less than four times per year (or more often as required) and:
  - prior to the introduction of a new greyhound
  - prior to whelping
  - upon the removal of puppies
- 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.
- ensure all equipment, including watering, feeding receptacles and utensils are clean and free of food, mould, etc.
- 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 appropriate statutory authority.

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

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 POCTAA and its regulations.

### 6.7.2 Minimum housing requirements

Table 2 outlines minimum housing areas for greyhounds.

If housed in 9 sqm or less, greyhounds must be given at least four 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.

Compatible greyhounds may be housed together where pen sizes meet the minimum space allowance in accordance with Table 2 of this Code.

Female greyhounds who are showing signs of coming into, or are in season, must not be housed with male greyhounds nine months or older.

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

All housing, exercise areas and yards must be:

- kept in a clean and hygienic condition
- cleaned daily of faeces, uneaten food and soiled bedding material
- drained to prevent pooling of liquids
- cleaned of all faeces immediately after removing a greyhound(s) from the area and before introducing new greyhounds.

All fencing for housing, exercise areas and yards must:

- be kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails etc
- 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.

All flooring for housing, exercise areas and yards must:

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

The flooring of the kennel and sleeping area must:

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

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

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

Exercise areas may be incorporated into housing if each greyhound aged 16 weeks or older can access at least 20 sqm per greyhound additional to the minimum housing requirement. For whelping greyhounds, adjoining exercise areas or day yards may be incorporated into the overall enclosure area.

**Table 2. Minimum pen sizes for indoor and outdoor housing**

Enclosure area for the first greyhound in square metres (sqm)	Minimum width in metres (m)	Additional dimensions for second greyhound in square metres (sqm)
<b>3 sqm up to 9 sqm</b>	1.2 m	<p>Single greyhound housing only. Breeding greyhounds may be housed in this kennel size.</p> <p>Greyhounds undergoing preparations for retirement and rehoming must not be housed in this kennel size, other than overnight.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>From 9 sqm up to 15 sqm</b>	2.4 m	<p>10 sqm per greyhound.</p> <p>If housing two greyhounds, minimum of 20 sqm is required.</p>
<b>From 15 sqm up to 20 sqm</b>	2.4 m	<p>10 sqm per greyhound (for a maximum of two greyhounds).</p> <p>If housing three greyhounds a minimum of 35 sqm is required.</p> <p>Housing one female greyhound and her litter up to eight weeks of age requires no additional space.</p> <p>Housing one female greyhound and her litter of 8-16 weeks of age requires an additional 15 sqm of space.</p> <p>Housing of a litter of less than 10 puppies at 8-16 weeks of age requires no additional space.</p> <p>For every additional four puppies, an additional 15 sqm is required.</p>
<b>20 sqm or more (also exercise yard)</b>	4 m	10 sqm per additional greyhound

### 6.7.3 Isolation housing

All establishments must provide an area for isolating greyhounds suspected of having an infectious disease. Alternatively, they must have a written agreement with a veterinary practitioner 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.

If isolation housing is not available at the establishment or a veterinary clinic within reasonable distance, then the Person in Charge must seek advice from GRV or a veterinary practitioner on alternative options.

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:

- maintained in an area approved in the EHMP
- regularly monitored by the Person in Charge according to direction from a veterinary practitioner.

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.

### 6.7.4 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.

### 6.7.5 Barriers to escape

There must be 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 1.2 metres high.

### 6.7.6 Construction of housing pens and yards

Greyhound pens 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.

Fencing for pens and yards must:

- be at least 1.2 metres high
- be maintained to prevent greyhound escape
- not allow for unsafe contact between greyhounds in adjoining pens or yards, or over the top of the fence.

It is recommended that materials are selected for ease of maintenance and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity.

### **Weatherproof area**

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 (including a kennel with a raised sleeping area).

For each additional greyhound housed between 16 weeks and 12 months of age, 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.

The flooring of the kennel and sleeping area must:

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

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

### **Sleeping area**

Each greyhound older than 16 weeks of age must be provided with sufficient space and bedding material so that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time.

Sleeping areas must 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.

### **6.7.7 Construction of indoor kennel facilities**

All indoor pens must provide the greyhounds with continuous access to natural daylight during the day. Temperature, humidity and ventilation must be managed to ensure greyhound comfort and safety.

Where greyhounds are housed in a totally enclosed area, where forced ventilation is the only form of air movement, the following is required:

- an air change rate of a minimum of eight changes per hour and sustained to prevent the build up of foul odours
- ventilation must not cause draughts and must distribute fresh air evenly to all of the animal housing areas
- temperature must be maintained in the ideal temperature range of 16-24 °C
- air recirculation units incorporating effective air cleaning and filtration to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals
- a back-up and alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation and temperature control mechanisms.

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

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

Sleeping areas must have solid partitions at least one meter high on three sides.

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

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

Beds must be raised off the floor and large enough to allow the greyhound to lay down comfortably.

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

### 6.7.8 Toileting yards

Toileting yards (also called empty out yards) must be at least 5 sqm.

No more than four compatible greyhounds may be toileted together at any one time. Each additional greyhound requires an additional 5 sqm for toileting.

Greyhounds must be provided the opportunity to toilet at least four times per day, which may occur during other education, training or racing activities.

### 6.7.9 Exercise yards

An exercise yard is any area that contains a greyhound for a period of time, outside normal housing. It must be at least 20 sqm, with a minimum width of 4 metres.

Establishments must have exercise facilities separate from normal housing, except if the housing pens incorporate additional space for exercise (see section 6.7.2 of this Code).

Up to eight greyhounds may be exercised together in an exercise yard of sufficient size.

Exercise yards, other than day yards that are not attached to normal housing areas, must be fully supervised at all times.

### 6.7.10 Day yards

Day yards may be used as exercise areas for extended unsupervised exercise (more than one hour).

Day yards must:

- have an area of at least 3 sqm that offers protection from the weather (sun, wind, rain and other extremes of weather).
- contain a raised bed
- be of adequate size for the number of greyhounds being housed, as per Table 2 of this Code (up to 8 greyhounds).

A day yard is external to the greyhounds normal housing (pen) environment.

Greyhounds may be exercised together in a day yard of sufficient size.

### 6.7.11 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.

### 6.7.12 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.

#### **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.*

### 6.7.13 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)
- slipping tracks
- galloping runs
- trial tracks.

All training facilities must:

- be supervised at all times when in use by greyhounds
- be fully enclosed and 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 rough scoria
- 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.

Slipping tracks and galloping runs used to train two greyhounds simultaneously must have a minimum width of 3.6 metres.

Any mechanical lures and lure cables must be kept in good working condition at all times. Animals or animal products must not be placed on the lure.

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

Starting boxes, viewing cages and race day 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 or race day cages must:

- not spend more than four hours in the cage without the opportunity to toilet, unless under the direction of a GRV Steward
- have access to water as needed, unless under the direction of a GRV Steward
- be monitored for signs of distress
- be removed if they are showing any signs of stress.

## 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 record. The greyhound record must include:

- details of any known physical abnormality or heritable defect (including injury)
- any treatment that the greyhound is receiving or requires
- if a veterinary practitioner 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 GRV registered owner must;

- have current vaccinations
- if desexed, be accompanied by a copy of the desexing certificate
- be transferred or sold in compliance with GRV requirements in place at that time in relation to the transfer or sale of dogs.

Greyhound puppies may be sold, given away or transferred to a new GRV 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 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 registered shelter) that is not registered with GRV, or any other Australian or New Zealand greyhound racing jurisdiction, must:

- have current vaccinations
- be desexed before leaving the greyhound establishment, except if the receiving party has provided written agreement to desex the greyhound
- if desexed, be accompanied by a copy of the desexing certificate.

GRV must be notified of the name, address, local government area, phone number and contact details of the new owner (including a registered shelter). GRV must also be provided with a copy of the greyhound's desexing 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 council and any available training opportunities
- the importance of greyhound training and socialisation
- vaccination
- the greyhound record, including any treatment plans.

Literature is available free of charge on the Victorian Government's website, through local councils, or on the GRV website.

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

This guarantee applies only to GRV registered owners rehoming greyhounds to independent community members who are not registered with GRV. 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 GRV registered owner within 21 days of sale or transfer, the former GRV 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 practitioner 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. Appendix 1

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

### 8.1 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 stereotypes

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
<b>8-16 weeks</b>	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.
<b>16 weeks + ongoing</b>	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).
<b>Retirement training</b>	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.



