The Racing and Other Acts Amendment (Greyhound Racing and Welfare Reform) Act 2016 (the Act) amends a number of Acts, including the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DA Act) to address recommendations from the Chief Veterinary Officer’s Report into the welfare and management of racing greyhounds. Following are some frequently asked questions regarding these amendments.

What are the key changes?
From May 4 2016:

- Racing greyhounds, known as GRV greyhounds, are defined as greyhounds registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV); except greyhounds that have gone through the Greyhound Adoption program (GAP), and greyhounds retired from the industry into the community as a pet.
- To qualify as a pet greyhound after retirement, the greyhound must have been retired to a non-GRV participant or have been adopted into the community through GAP. All non-GRV greyhounds must be registered with the local council on an annual basis.
- Keeping, in relation to a GRV greyhound, is defined as breeding, rearing, training, breaking, racing, boarding or any other activity that involves the care of a GRV greyhound.
- The DA Act includes a new part - PART 4AA - which regulates the keeping of GRV greyhounds. It also allows the Minister to make a code of practice relating to the keeping of GRV greyhounds, and creates an offence for failure to comply with the relevant code. NOTE: the new Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds is currently under development, and will not be gazetted until April 2017; therefore, the offence will be incomplete until that time.
- GRV greyhound properties will no longer be required to register with councils as a domestic animal business and comply with the Code of Practice for the Operation of Greyhound Establishments.
- Codes of practice relating to domestic animal businesses have been renamed "Business Codes of Practice" for clarity.
• The *Racing Act 1958* has been amended to provide for information disclosure provisions. Officers authorised by the Board of GRV (the Board) under section 77A of the *Racing Act 1958* may use information kept by GRV relating to the registration of greyhounds and greyhound racing participants for the enforcement of the *DA Act*; and disclose any information on the register to a person appointed under sections 71A or 72 of the *DA Act* for the purpose of enforcing Part 4AA of the *DA Act*.

**Why was the Domestic Animals Act 1994 amended?**

In early 2015, in response to the live baiting expose, the Chief Veterinary Officer conducted an investigation into animal welfare and cruelty in the Victorian greyhound industry. The report following the investigation made multiple recommendations with respect to the management of racing greyhounds under the *DA Act*. In particular, recommendation 1.2 required legislative amendments to the *DA Act* to create a code of practice related to the keeping of racing greyhounds and offences for failing to do so.

The *Racing and Other Acts Amendment (Greyhound Racing and Welfare Reform) Act 2016* makes changes to the *DA Act* in accordance with these recommendations.

**What are the new requirements for people caring for or owning a GRV greyhound?**

New provisions in the *DA Act* require GRV greyhounds to be kept in accordance with the mandatory *Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds* (once it commences in April 2017).

The Act also sets out an offence for failing to abide by the mandatory code of practice of 246 penalty units for an individual or 600 penalty units for a body corporate. The value of a penalty unit changes each year. For the 2015/16 financial year a penalty unit is $151.67.

The *DA Act* also exempts GRV greyhound properties from the requirement to register as a domestic animal business and from complying with the *Code of Practice for the Operation of Greyhound Establishments*.

**My premises is registered as a Greyhound Domestic Animal Business, what do I do?**

If you already have premises registered with your local council and you are abiding by the *Code of Practice for the Operation of Greyhound Establishments* (Greyhound Establishments Code), there is nothing you need to do. Your registration with the local council will remain until 10 April 2017.

While local councils will no longer enforce the Greyhound Establishments Code, GRV have adopted the Code as a minimum standard for the keeping and care of GRV greyhounds under its rules and you must continue to comply with the requirements until the new *Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds* commences.

**When will the new code of practice be available?**

The new *Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds* is currently under development. Industry and the community will have an opportunity to comment on the draft code later in 2016. Currently, the predicted commencement date of the new code is 10 April 2017.
What role does local council play in the enforcement of the new provisions for GRV greyhounds?

Under the new requirements, GRV greyhounds are registered with GRV. GRV greyhounds are also no longer required to register as a domestic animal business; therefore, local council will not play a role in the registration of GRV greyhounds or the enforcement of their Code of Practice. However, local council will still be involved in the general enforcement of the DA Act; for example, the enforcement of dangerous dog provisions, and dogs wandering at large etc.

What role do GRV animal welfare inspectors play in enforcing the new provisions?

GRV animal welfare inspectors are being authorised under the DA Act to enable them to enforce the provisions of the Act that relate to GRV greyhounds. GRV animal welfare inspectors are being authorised as section 71A officers.

Section 71A officers, under section 74 of the DA Act, have the power to take any reasonable action that is necessary to ensure compliance with the DA Act; or the regulations; a business code of practice or greyhound code of practice made under the Act; or a notice to comply issued under the Act; or an animal registry licence.

Can GRV welfare inspectors enter my property?

Yes, if authorised under the DA Act, GRV animal welfare inspectors can enter your property at any time (under Section 74 of the DA Act).

When will GRV greyhound owners have to start paying the levy?

Additional amendments in the Racing and Other Acts Amendment (Greyhound Racing and Welfare Reform) Act 2016 create a requirement for owners of GRV greyhounds to pay a $3.50 levy on the registration of greyhounds with GRV. This levy contributes to the administration of the DA Act as it relates specifically to GRV greyhounds such as: the creation and maintenance of the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds; the authorisation of GRV animal welfare inspectors; the provision of training and education materials to GRV and industry participants etc.

These provisions in the Racing and Other Acts Amendment (Greyhound Racing and Welfare Reform) Act 2016 will be proclaimed and will commence 10 April 2017.

I adopted a retired greyhound from the industry, what are my legal requirements?

Your greyhound is considered to be a pet. Therefore, you must register your greyhound with your local council, and keep your greyhound confined to your property except when being exercised. All greyhounds must be kept on a lead when not confined to their owner’s property. If your greyhound did not pass through the Greyhound Adoption Program, your greyhound must be muzzled at all times when not on your property.


Are there any changes for other greyhound owners?

No.
Will changes to greyhound muzzling laws be made?

The department will undertake a review of the greyhound muzzling requirements in the next 12-18 months. The outcomes of the review will be presented to the Minister for Agriculture for consideration.