

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE KEEPING OF RACING GREYHOUNDS

GUIDE TO DEVELOPING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Introduction

The Person in Charge of any greyhound establishment has the ultimate duty of care to ensure the safety and welfare of greyhounds and staff in the event of an emergency. Planning ahead is essential in the event of an emergency.

The Code requires the Person in Charge to develop and maintain an emergency management plan as part of the Establishment and Health Management Plan (EHMP). The following checklist provides useful information and suggestions to include in emergency plans.

Emergencies come in all forms. Some are personal emergencies, leaving establishments with inadequate staff to care for the greyhounds on-site. Others are large scale natural disasters such as fire or flood. Your establishment must be fully prepared to deal with any type of emergency, so the welfare of all staff and greyhounds is maintained.

Personal emergencies

Preparation for personal emergencies includes:

- maintaining a forward supply of food for all greyhounds at your establishment (e.g. three days)
- ensuring your EHMP and kennel/pen cards are up to date with all information relevant for the care of the greyhounds, so appropriate food, medication, handling and exercise can be given in your absence
- maintaining food, water, cleaning, disinfection, exercise, training, socialisation, handling and enrichment standard operating procedures or protocols in a prominent place for someone to be able to properly care for your greyhounds in your absence
- maintaining up to date greyhound records, with full health care and veterinary history
- creating and maintaining a list of emergency contacts that can assist with managing the establishment in your absence. This could include the establishment veterinary practitioner details, feed suppliers, groomers, plumber, electrician, local council, Greyhound Racing Victoria and essential services etc.

Remember: All emergency evacuation procedures must be located in a prominent place within the establishment, so that anyone can find them, and act upon them during a time of emergency.

Small scale emergencies

Small scale emergencies are those that affect your establishment/property for a short period, such as power outages, water delivery failures, food shortages, etc.

Review your establishment records and determine the most likely short-term emergencies your establishment may face.

For each emergency circumstance, you will need to determine what steps will be taken to rectify the situation (including all contact details of individuals/companies/organisations you may need to contact), and what steps you will need to take to reduce the consequences on the welfare of your greyhounds and functioning of your establishment.


Larger scale emergencies

Larger scale emergencies, such as natural disasters, require a significant level of thought and planning. In particular, you need to decide whether your establishment has the means to evacuate all greyhounds, and if not, which greyhounds may be evacuated and which may not.

If you are planning to evacuate your greyhounds, you must make preparations now to avoid chaos and confusion if a large scale emergency does occur. The following information is designed to help you think about what you need to put into your emergency plans.

Planning checklist

- Ensure you have an emergency plan that covers major disasters with the potential to affect your area. This plan needs to include all of your greyhounds and staff, and identify prevention measures to minimise the effect of the emergency.
- Ensure you have a complete list of emergency contacts including establishment veterinary practitioner details, feed suppliers, groomers, plumber, electrician, local government, Greyhound Racing Victoria, other GRV participant establishments etc.
- Determine whether you are going to evacuate all or some of your greyhounds, should the emergency require evacuation:
 - determine possible evacuation transfer locations and confirm with those locations that housing of greyhounds is possible
 - record evacuation transfer locations and several alternative routes to get there, including travel time
 - list equipment required for evacuation
 - develop an evacuation kit and leave it in an accessible place that all staff have access to and are familiar with
 - ensure greyhounds being evacuated can be easily placed in transport vehicles/carriers and are accustomed to travel
 - run several emergency evacuation drills to ensure you know exactly how much time you will need in an emergency

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- clearly document under what conditions and at what stage of threat evacuation is to occur
 - always maintain transport vehicles for emergency use.
- For greyhounds left behind when staff evacuate, establish a set of procedures for ensuring their welfare as best you can. The procedures should include:
- establishing a water supply for each greyhound that can last up to 10 days. Water bowls should be secure and non-spillable
 - providing enough food to last for the time you feel you may need to be away (e.g. three days, or perhaps longer for larger scale emergencies)
 - ensuring greyhound housing areas and their surrounds are free from toxic, dangerous or flammable materials as much as possible
 - creating elevated areas in the event of possible flooding
 - ensuring your greyhounds have access to proper shelter during the emergency
 - running several drills to determine the time it will take to set up your greyhounds to leave them and record this time.
- Ensure you cover evacuation procedures in your staff induction program.
- Ensure regular emergency drills are run.
- Ensure you have evacuation procedures for each area in the whole establishment, for example every shed, yard, kennel etc.

For more detailed information on preparing and acting during an emergency visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/pets-in-emergencies>. You may also wish to seek information from Emergency management Victoria at <https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/>, or your local council.