

# CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE KEEPING OF RACING GREYHOUNDS GUIDE TO DEVELOPING AN ESTABLISHMENT AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN (EHMP)

## Introduction

The aim of the EHMP is to ensure that all greyhound establishments have a complete set of general protocols or standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the best possible management of greyhound welfare and efficient operation of the establishment.

The EHMP must be:

- developed with support from the establishment's veterinary practitioner, to ensure that all practices meet suitable animal health and welfare standards.
- approved by the establishment's veterinary practitioner initially and every three years thereafter.
- reviewed annually and updated as appropriate by the Person in Charge. Any changes must be approved by the veterinary practitioner, as appropriate, and submitted to GRV.
- signed by:
  - the Person in Charge or owner (if not the Person in Charge) of the establishment, and
  - an independent veterinary practitioner.
- submitted to GRV.

The EHMP may also specify protocols that differ to the Code's minimum requirements for the items listed below. If you do not include protocols for the three listed items, the requirements outlined in the Code will apply.

- How you will provide exercise, environmental enrichment and socialisation to greyhounds during the puppy and rearing stages
- How you will prepare greyhounds for retirement and rehoming
- How you will use muzzles

This checklist is designed to help you develop your EHMP. The "Guide to Writing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)" may also help you (available on Animal Welfare Victoria's website: [www.animalwelfare.vic.gov.au](http://www.animalwelfare.vic.gov.au)).

Once you have developed the SOP for each type of protocol and combined these to form your final EHMP, you should ensure the relevant protocols have veterinary approval and submit the required information to GRV.

Discussions with your veterinary practitioner or GRV's support line (should you seek advice), may recommend you alter your SOPs or general protocols to meet the requirements of the Code, or to ensure better management and welfare for your greyhounds.

If you change establishment veterinary practitioners, you must provide them with your up-to-date EHMP as soon as practicable.

All establishments must address the points outlined in section 4.1 of the Code in their EHMP. Depending on the type of establishment, not all the areas will need to be addressed (e.g. protocols relating to breeding, whelping etc.).

## EHMP checklist

In your EHMP, you must outline how you will do the following (either via a statement, a SOP, or otherwise);

- ensure the care and welfare of all greyhounds at the establishment, including:
  - conducting a daily visual behavioural and welfare assessment of greyhounds (Note: you only need to record your observations if the greyhound is showing signs of ill health or stress)
  - assessing greyhounds before admission to the establishment
  - assessing greyhounds being reared at your establishment for sale (if appropriate)
  - ensure all greyhounds receive all required vaccinations (i.e. what is your vaccination program)
  - ensuring all greyhounds are provided with an appropriate diet
  - provide exercise, environmental enrichment and socialisation for greyhounds during education, pre-training, training and racing (if you have these age classes at your establishment)
  - managing greyhounds showing signs of stress or behavioural stereotypies (i.e. outline particular intervention and management actions)
  - external parasite prevention and treatment programs including screening for fleas, ear mites, ticks, and ringworm
  - internal parasite prevention and treatment programs
  - managing the dental health of all greyhounds, including gum disease and plaque management
  - ensuring all greyhounds undergo appropriate grooming regimes
- conduct a risk assessment of your establishment (including housing and exercise areas) and outline how you manage the risks identified
- induct staff
- ensure hygiene at your establishment (for both persons on site and greyhounds), disinfection and disease prevention, including pest management
- carry out emergency euthanasia. A plan, developed in conjunction with your veterinary practitioner, must include approved methods and personnel
- respond to emergency situations for both humans and greyhounds including evacuation procedures (i.e. an emergency management plan)
- respond to an outbreak of an infectious disease. This includes ensuring appropriate isolation of any greyhound and disinfection procedures (e.g. their housing, bedding material and feeding and drinking utensils)
- quarantine and move greyhounds, including for new greyhounds introduced to the establishment
- ensure overnight monitoring, including the implementation of emergency action if required.

Where the below items are applicable to your establishment, you must also outline how you will do the following (either via a statement (if appropriate), a SOP, or otherwise):

- manage isolation facilities (where isolation facilities are constructed at the establishment)
- manage and monitor whelping greyhounds
- determine the suitability of breeding greyhounds to continue breeding within the establishment
- use and/or administer oral supplements and injectable substances regimes
- undertake a housing acclimatisation program



the age at which education and pre-training 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).

Where you wish to outline protocols that differ from the Code's minimum requirements, you must include these in your EHMP. Alternate protocols may be listed for the three items listed below. If you do not include protocols for these items, the requirements outlined in the Code will apply.

- Provision of exercise, environmental enrichment and socialisation for greyhounds as puppies and during rearing (i.e. that differ from Table 1 of the Code)
- Process for preparing a greyhound for retirement and rehoming (i.e. that differs from section 6.5 of the Code)
- Use of muzzles on greyhounds, where the use will differ from section 6.2.5 of the Code.