

# *Tasracing Animal Welfare*

*Code of Practice for  
Greyhound Welfare*



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*Animal Welfare*

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# Code of Practice for Racing Greyhound Welfare

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# 1. Introduction

## Scope and application

This Code of Practice for Racing Greyhound Welfare (Code) has been developed for participants licensed by the Tasracing Racing Integrity Unit (TRIU) involved in the activities of owning, training, breeding or otherwise keeping of greyhounds, and for prospective new entrants to the industry.

The purpose of this Code is to specify minimum standards (Standards) for staffing, accommodation, management, breeding and care required to meet the physical and behavioural needs of a racing greyhound throughout its lifecycle in accordance with the Five Domains (Mellor *et al.*, 2020<sup>1</sup>), including:

- readily accessible food and water to maintain health and vigour,
- suitable living conditions, including appropriate shelter,
- regular exercise,
- the opportunity to express normal behaviour, including appropriate socialisation,
- routine preventative healthcare and appropriate husbandry,
- rapid identification and treatment of injury and disease,
- freedom from confusion and conflict in training,
- a humane end to life.

Owning a racing greyhound is a long-term responsibility and owners must make provisions for the greyhound's eventual retirement from racing and its appropriate rehoming in accordance with the Rules of Racing.

The Standards provided in this Code are to be read and applied in conjunction with existing laws, regulations and rules, as amended from time to time. Nothing in this Code negates, overrides, or replaces any person's responsibility under the law. Relevant laws, regulations and rules include (but are not limited to):

- *Animal Welfare Act 1993* (Tas)
- *Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016* (Tas)
- *Dog Control Act 2000* (Tas)
- *Dog Control Regulations 2021* (Tas)
- *Biosecurity Act 2019* (Tas)
- *Biosecurity Regulations 2022* (Tas)
- *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987* (Tas)
- *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2022* (Tas)
- *Greyhounds Australasia Rules of Racing*
- *Tasracing Local Rules of Racing*

These Standards are intended to complement the relevant guidelines in the *Recommended Standards for the Care of Greyhounds*, but in the case of any conflict the local Council by laws take precedence.

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<sup>1</sup> Mellor DJ, Beausoleil NJ, Littlewood KE *et al.* The Five Domains Model: Including Human-Animal Interactions in Assessments of Animal Welfare. *Animals* (Basel). 2020 Oct 14;10(10):1870. doi: 10.3390/ani10101870. PMID: 33066335; PMCID: PMC7602120.

## Monitoring and Compliance

This Code of Practice is, without limitation, a Code of Practice for the purposes of the Tasmanian Greyhound Rules of Racing. The Standards contained within this Code of Practice are adopted and enforceable under Rule 156 (w) of the Tasmanian Greyhound Rules of Racing. Compliance with these Standards will be monitored and enforced by the Stewards or anyone else appointed under the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* (Tas). Ultimate responsibility for the investigation of alleged breaches and enforcement of the Standards contained within this Code of Practice rests with the Tasracing Chief Racing Integrity Officer (CRIO), who has authority to take disciplinary action if breaches are substantiated. The Tasracing CRIO may act on the advice of the Tasracing Chief Veterinary and Animal Welfare Officer in making such a determination. Persons found guilty of breaching the Standards within the Code of Practice may be the subject to penalties and provisions to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds, including, but not limited to, fines, official animal welfare directions, suspensions or disqualifications of licences, and may also incorporate directions to disburse registered animals under the care of the licensed person back to their owners, or orders for seizure of such registered animals. Further, any matters that are identified that lie outside of the jurisdiction conferred to the Tasracing CRIO under the rules of racing may, where appropriate, be referred to other authorities, including the Tasmanian Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), Tasmania Police and/or the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals Tasmania (RSPCA Tasmania), for further investigation.

## Glossary of terms

**Artificial insemination:** an insemination of a dam, carried out by a veterinarian, by a means other than a natural mating.

**Aversive substances or devices:** a substance or device used to deliver an unpleasant stimulus, such as an electric shock, or an unpleasant noise or smell, intended to suppress or diminish an unwanted behaviour.

**Barking muzzle:** a muzzle designed to restrict a greyhound's ability to bark.

**Bed:** a structure, raised off the floor, that is sufficiently large to allow the greyhound to comfortably lie down when housed. The main component of the bed must not be constructed from concrete or metal.

**Bedding:** the material used to line a bed to provide comfort and warmth to a greyhound.

**Biosecurity procedures:** practices adopted to minimise risk of spread of disease. These can include effective disinfection or containment of people, animals, equipment, materials or other contaminants within the isolation area.

**Bullring:** a circular area used for educating and training greyhounds.

**Cage:** a structure designed to temporarily contain greyhounds.

**Code:** this Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice.

**Companion animal:** a pet kept for a person's company. Companion animals must be registered under the *Dog Control Act (2000)*.

**Compartment:** an enclosure within a vehicle or trailer designed for transporting greyhounds.

**Critical socialisation period:** the period between 3 to 16 weeks of age during a puppy's life when 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.

**Dam:** the mother of a litter of pups.

**Dog breeding stand:** a mechanical device or apparatus used to restrain a female greyhound during the act of mating.

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

**Euthanasia:** the humane destruction of a greyhound by a veterinarian using rapid intravenous injection of a concentrated barbiturate solution. Euthanasia may only be performed by a person other than a veterinarian in exceptional circumstances, and in such circumstances, must be performed using humane methods.

**Enclosure:** an area fully secured by fences or barriers designed to prevent the escape of greyhounds.

**Enrichment:** practices that expose greyhounds to situations or activities that help meet their physical and psychological needs, including any enrichment requirements outlined in this Code.

**Exercise:** any physical activity of greyhounds designed to meet their physical and behavioural needs.

**Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment Plan:** a documented plan prepared by a participant detailing how the exercise, socialisation and enrichment needs of the greyhound/s in their care will be met.

**Exercise yard:** an enclosure in which one or more greyhounds may be kept for several hours at a time for the purpose of self-exercising.

**Galloping run:** an enclosure along which greyhounds can run.

**Greyhound:** a greyhound over the age of 16 weeks that is kept by a participant.

**Greyhound housing areas:** all pens, kennels, cages and enclosures used to house greyhounds, being areas where the greyhounds sleep, eat or exercise.

**Greyhound racing industry participant:** any of the following persons, whether or not the person is employed or engaged on a full-time basis and whether or not the person receives payment or other consideration for the activity concerned:

- a person who owns, breeds or keeps greyhounds,
- a person who trains greyhounds,
- a person who handles greyhounds at a greyhound race or trial,
- a person who acts as a bookmaker or bookmaker's clerk in connection with greyhound racing,
- any person who is of a class of person associated with greyhound racing that is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

**Handling:** any physical human contact with a greyhound, including grooming, patting/stroking, providing exercise, socialisation and enrichment, and carrying out a physical health examination.

**Heritable disease or defect:** a genetic trait that causes or has the potential to cause significant adverse health or welfare issues in affected greyhounds or their progeny.

**Humane euthanasia:** euthanasia where pain, fear and/or distress to the greyhound is minimised and it is rendered immediately unconscious and does not regain consciousness before death.

**Kennel:** a pen designed to house a greyhound often in a series of adjacent pens designed to house multiple greyhounds or puppies.

**Litter:** all offspring born dead or alive from a single whelping.

**Mating:** the physical act of copulation between a male and a female greyhound.

**Mating greyhounds pen:** an enclosure in which greyhounds are kept while mating.

**Monitoring or monitored:** observation and assessment of greyhounds on a regular basis, including, but not limited to, routine management activities.

**Muzzle:** a wire, plastic or mesh piece of equipment that is designed specifically to cover the nose and jaw area of a greyhound and does not restrict normal and necessary behaviour such as panting and drinking.

**Noxious:** harmful or injurious to the health or well-being of greyhounds or humans.

**On-Track Veterinarian:** a veterinarian employed to be in attendance at a greyhound race meeting.

**Owner:** the person registered as the owner of a greyhound.

**Participant:** see greyhound racing industry participant.

**Pen:** a structure designed to house greyhounds or puppies.

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

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

**Registered:** means registered under the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024* (Tas).

**Rehoming:** the transfer of a greyhound to a person who is not a greyhound racing industry participant.

**Retired greyhound:** a greyhound which is registered as retired from racing and/or breeding.

**Sclerosing agent:** a chemical irritant which is injected into an injured ligament, tendon or bone injury to harden tissue to create scar tissue.

**Slipping track:** a straight enclosure along which greyhounds can run.

**Socialisation:** the interaction between a greyhound and other animals (including other greyhounds) and humans, and its controlled exposure to novel environments, to make the greyhound suitable for life as a companion animal.

**Spelling/spelled:** a period of rest.

**Steward:** a person employed by the Tasracing Racing Integrity Unit as a steward.

**Surface:** any texture within a housing pen or crate, including hard floors, soft bedding, newspaper, artificial grass or turf, for the purpose of enrichment.

**Tethered or tethering:** the securing of a greyhound to an anchor point for the purpose of confining it to a desired area.

**Training:** to teach, educate and/or instruct a greyhound in preparation for racing.

**Training facilities:** a bullring, galloping run, slipping track, trial track and any other facility used for the purpose of training greyhounds.

**Transfer or transferred:** to change the ownership of a greyhound.

**Trial or trialling:** to cause a greyhound to run in race-like conditions, whether alone or with other greyhounds, at a licensed race or trial track, in pursuit of a mechanical lure.

**Trial track:** any premises (other than a licensed racecourse) held out by the proprietor as being available for the purpose of enabling greyhounds (other than those owned by or leased to the proprietor) to compete in trials or be trained in racing.

**Veterinarian:** a veterinary practitioner registered under the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987* (Tas).

**Veterinary treatment:**

- a) medical treatment of a prophylactic or therapeutic nature carried out upon the animal by, or in accordance with directions given in respect of the animal by, a veterinary practitioner in respect of that particular animal; or
- b) surgical treatment of a prophylactic or therapeutic nature, or sterilisation, carried out upon the animal by a veterinary practitioner; or
- c) a veterinary diagnostic procedure carried out on an animal by a veterinary practitioner; or
- d) a veterinary consultation undertaken in respect of the animal by a veterinary practitioner; or
- e) medical care administered to an animal for an illness or injury by, or in accordance with directions given in respect of that particular animal by, a **veterinarian**.

**Veterinary advice:** advice provided to a participant by a veterinarian.

**Weaned:** a greyhound puppy that no longer receives a milk diet provided by its mother or an artificial source.

**Weatherproof:** providing protection from wind, rain and extreme temperatures to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds in a greyhound housing area.

**Whelping:** 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 box or whelping area:** housing for a greyhound going through whelping and her puppies up to 16 weeks of age.

**Whelping greyhound pen:** an enclosure designed to house the dam and her litter of puppies over the age of four weeks.

## 2. Nutrition and Hydration

**Objective** *To ensure that every greyhound receives appropriate food and water for optimal development, health and wellbeing.*

### Standards

#### Food

- 2.1 All **greyhounds** must be fed at least once daily. Food must be canine-appropriate and provided in sufficient quantity and nutritional quality to meet the daily requirements for the greyhound's age, size, condition, and level of activity. **R**
- 2.2 Unless directed otherwise by a **veterinarian**, greyhounds must be provided with raw, meaty bones (from an appropriate age - 9 months onwards) and/or safe chew toys to provide enrichment and promote good dental health. Greyhounds should be kept under observation while chewing bones or chew toys to monitor for potential problems. **R**
- 2.3 Food must not be allowed to become rancid, decayed or insect infested. Uneaten food must be disposed of before a fresh meal is provided. **R**
- 2.4 Food fed to greyhounds must not contain raw offal. **R**
- 2.5 **Participants** must ensure they have adequate food available on site to meet the needs of greyhounds in the event of an emergency such as illness, accident, or natural disaster. **R**

#### Cleaning and food storage

- 2.6 Food containers and food preparation areas must be kept clean and hygienic. **R**
- 2.7 Food must be stored in such a way as to prevent spoilage or contamination and monitored to ensure its quality is maintained. **R**

#### Water

- 2.8 Fresh, clean drinking water must be provided to greyhounds at all times. **R**
- 2.9 **Puppies** must be provided with access to fresh clean drinking water from three weeks of age.
- 2.10 Water containers must be safe for puppies and greyhounds, non-spillable, and hold sufficient water. **R**
- 2.11 Water containers must be kept clean. **R**

*Note: participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply with those Standards marked with an "R" in relation to those greyhounds.*

### 3. Health and Wellbeing

**Objective** *To ensure that every greyhound enjoys optimal health and wellbeing.*

#### Standards

##### Monitoring greyhound health

**3.1** **Participants** must inspect greyhounds in their care at least twice a day. Observations should include the greyhound's eating, drinking, defecation, urination, physical movement and behaviour, as well as coat and general condition and health. Any abnormal findings must be recorded.

##### Veterinary care

**3.2** Participants must ensure that they have reliable access to a veterinarian capable of providing 24-hour **veterinary advice** in regard to all the greyhounds in the participant's care.

**3.3** The name and contact details of the veterinarian must be prominently displayed within the greyhound facility, so that all persons caring for the greyhounds in the facility have ready access to those details.

**3.4** **Veterinary treatment** must be provided to a greyhound or **puppy** where necessary. **R**

**3.5** Any directions of a veterinarian in relation to treatment of pain, injury, disease, distress or post-surgical care must be followed. **R**

##### Sclerosing agents

**3.6** **Sclerosing agents** must not be administered to greyhounds. **R**

##### Storage, administration, and treatment records

**3.7** Participants must keep a written treatment record (in accordance with **GAR 151**) for each greyhound or puppy in their care that includes:

- vaccination records and matching vaccination certificates; **R**
- internal and external parasite control (including intestinal worms, fleas, ticks or heartworm); **R**
- any veterinary treatment administered to the greyhound, including the name of the veterinarian prescribing the treatment and the name and signature of the veterinarian or other person administering the treatment. **R**

**3.8** When a greyhound is sold, **rehomed**, or otherwise **transferred** to a different person, the participant transferring the greyhound must supply the treatment record relating to the greyhound to the next custodian. **R**

- 3.9** Any medication prescribed by a veterinarian for a greyhound must be administered in accordance with veterinary directions. **R**
- 3.10** Medications, treatments, or supplements must be labelled clearly and kept in their original container or packaging.
- 3.11** All expired medications, supplements and injectable substances must be disposed of according to relevant legislative requirements.

### **Vaccinations**

- 3.12** Unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian, puppies must not be vaccinated prior to four weeks of age.
- 3.13** Participants must ensure that all greyhounds in their care are vaccinated from the age of 6-8 weeks, and that vaccinations are kept up to date, as per **GAR 25**. **R**
- 3.14** Unless a veterinarian has provided contrary advice in writing, greyhounds must be vaccinated against:
- distemper virus **R**
  - parvovirus **R**
  - canine adenovirus **R**
  - parainfluenza virus **R**
  - *Bordetella bronchiseptica* **R**

### **Worming and parasite management**

- 3.15** Participants must administer an effective internal and external parasite control program (e.g. gastrointestinal worm, heart worm, ear mites, fleas and ticks) which is age appropriate, to all greyhounds in their care. **R**
- 3.16** Worming and parasite treatment must be used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or at the direction of veterinarian. **R**

### **Dental health**

- 3.17** Participants must **monitor** the dental health of all greyhounds in their care, and seek veterinary treatment if required. **R**

### **Grooming**

- 3.18** Participants must ensure that the greyhounds in their care are maintained in a good and clean condition. **R**
- 3.19** Participants must check the toenails of all greyhounds in their care regularly and if necessary, trim them to prevent overgrowth. **R**

*Note: participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply with those Standards marked with an "R" in relation to those greyhounds.*

## 4 Greyhound Breeding

**Objective** *To ensure that greyhounds are bred in a safe and responsible manner, resulting in healthy greyhounds and puppies.*

### Standards

#### Suitability for breeding

- 4.1 Participants must obtain from a veterinarian and produce to Tasracing a written certification that a greyhound is fit to breed before the greyhound may be **registered** for breeding.
- 4.2 Participants must not allow breeding between greyhounds that are closely related to each other, such as father-daughter, mother-son, or brother-sister, or grandparent-grandchild.
- 4.3 A greyhound must not be involved in breeding if it has been diagnosed by a veterinarian as having a **heritable disease or defect** that is likely to adversely affect the health or welfare of its future offspring.
- 4.4 Where a greyhound is suspected of having a heritable disease or defect, the participant must seek veterinary advice to:
  - diagnose the disease or defect and provide any required treatment;
  - protect the ongoing welfare of the affected greyhound;
  - prevent further propagation of the heritable disease or defect in the greyhound population.
- 4.5 Neither male nor female greyhounds are to be registered for breeding before they are at least 18 months of age.
- 4.6 A female greyhound must not be caused or allowed to have more than two **litters** in any 18-month period (GAR 59).
- 4.7 A female greyhound can only be allowed to be bred up to and including age 7 years old.
- 4.8 A female greyhound must not be caused or allowed to have more than three litters, without prior approval from the Tasracing Racing Integrity Unit.

#### Natural mating

- 4.9 Natural **mating** pairs must be physically separated from other greyhounds.
- 4.10 If the female greyhound is being unduly harassed by the male greyhound, they must be separated immediately.
- 4.11 A male greyhound must not be put with more than one female at any one time for the purpose of natural mating.

**4.12** After mating, both greyhounds must be physically separated, assessed for signs of injury, and veterinary treatment provided if necessary.

**4.13** **Dog breeding stands** must not be used in mating.

#### **Artificial insemination**

**4.14** **Artificial insemination** must only be carried out by a veterinarian using the transcervical technique.

#### **Whelping**

**4.15** A **whelping box** or other suitable **whelping area** must be available to a **whelping** greyhound at least seven days before her estimated whelping date. The whelping box or other suitable whelping area must be clean, safe, quiet, and separated from other greyhounds.

**4.16** After whelping is complete, the **dam** and her puppies must be closely monitored to ensure the puppies are feeding normally and maternal acceptance has been firmly established.

**4.17** The whelping area must be cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours of the completion of whelping.

#### **Lactating**

**4.18** Dams must be examined twice a day for mastitis during the first two weeks post-whelp, and veterinary treatment sought where mastitis is present.

**4.19** Participants must seek veterinary advice in relation to any puppies which are not feeding properly, or do not gain adequate weight.

#### **Puppies**

**4.20** Unless directed by a veterinarian, puppies must not be sold, leased, or otherwise transferred before eight weeks of age.

## 5 Housing and Environment

**Objective** *To ensure that every greyhound is provided with housing that provides adequate space, shelter and comfort, having regards to the greyhound's age, size, and behavioural needs.*

### Standards

#### Construction of housing pens, kennels and yards

- 5.1 All **enclosures** used to keep greyhounds must provide at least enough space for each greyhound to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch, and move about. **R**
- 5.2 Greyhounds must be securely confined to prevent their escape from the property at which they are kept, and prevent unauthorised persons gaining access to the greyhounds. Unless the greyhound is under supervision, there must be always at least two barriers between a greyhound and escape from the property. **R**
- 5.3 All greyhound enclosures, housing and sleeping areas must be designed, constructed, and maintained in a way that is safe and provides for the well-being of the greyhounds. **R**
- 5.4 Any security measures installed in or around **greyhound housing areas** must not prevent easy access to greyhounds, or efficient removal of greyhounds in the event of an emergency. **R**
- 5.5 Vehicles, caravans, trailers, portable crates and the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used as long-term housing for greyhounds. Emergency use for up to 3 nights is acceptable.

#### Indoor housing

- 5.6 All indoor housing areas must have adequate ventilation. **R**
- 5.7 Where greyhounds are housed in an enclosed environment in which air conditioning and/or fans provide the only form of air movement:
  - temperatures must be maintained at between 16°C and 26°C;
  - effective air cleaning and filtration must be in place; and
  - a power back-up and effective alarm system must be installed and available for use in the event of power failures or breakdown.
- 5.8 Where greyhounds are housed indoors, lighting must be adequate to allow proper inspection of the greyhounds when needed and light cycles must be as close as possible to natural conditions.

## Greyhound housing area space requirement

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

Table 1: Minimum space requirements for greyhound housing areas

Minimum requirements for one greyhound			
Enclosure type	Minimum width	Minimum height	Total area
Pen (includes kennel)	1.2 m	1.8 m	3.5 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum requirements for two greyhounds			
Pen (includes kennel)	2.4 m	1.8 m	7 m <sup>2</sup>
Mating Greyhounds Pen	3 m	1.8 m	15 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum requirements for whelping greyhounds			
Whelping box area for dam and litter of pups aged up to 4 weeks	A whelping box or other area used for whelping must be large enough for the dam to lie comfortably while whelping and accommodate the dam and her puppies for four weeks after whelping.		
Whelping Greyhounds Pen (includes kennel)	For a dam and litter of puppies aged over 4 weeks.		15 m <sup>2</sup>
Whelping greyhounds housing pen (includes kennel)	One dam and her litter of pups aged over 8 weeks require an additional 15 m <sup>2</sup> of space.		30 m <sup>2</sup>

## Housing and environment

- 5.10 Greyhound housing areas must provide greyhounds adequate protection against extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, humidity, dampness, persistent loud noises, light pollution, **noxious** odours, and draughts. **R**
- 5.11 While in outdoor yards and other enclosures, greyhounds must have access to shelter from rain, sun and extreme temperatures. **R**

## Sleeping areas

- 5.12 Areas where greyhounds sleep must:
- include a raised **bed** or wooden pallet, which is large enough for the greyhound to lay down completely stretched out on;
  - be equipped with **bedding** that is warm, soft and dry; and made of materials that are safe for greyhounds and puppies; and,
  - afford each greyhound privacy from other greyhounds while sleeping.

## Housing greyhounds for breeding and whelping

- 5.13 No female greyhound which is near or in season is to be housed with a male greyhounds six months or older that has not been desexed. **R**
- 5.14 Where used, a whelping box must be large enough for the dam to lie comfortably while whelping and to accommodate the dam and her puppies for the first four weeks after whelping.
- 5.15 Pregnant dams must be introduced to the whelping box at least 2 weeks in advance of anticipated whelping date to ensure comfort and familiarity.
- 5.16 Whelping boxes should be warm enough and shielded from draughts to protect puppies from hypothermia.
- 5.17 Whelping boxes must have sides that are high enough to allow the dam to exit readily but prevent puppies under four weeks of age from falling out.
- 5.18 A **pen** housing a whelping greyhound must contain a fully screened bedding area to provide physical separation from other greyhounds (visual and noise barrier) and provide the dam with access to an area where her puppies cannot reach her.
- 5.19 Puppies from a litter must be actively monitored when housed together and if fighting, bullying or other adverse welfare outcomes are identified, they must be separated.

## Cleanliness and hygiene

- 5.20 Greyhound housing areas and bedding must be maintained in a clean, hygienic and safe condition at all times. **R**
- 5.21 Pens and **kennels** must be disinfected using a safe and effective **disinfectant** (following the product label instructions) at least every 3 months, as well as:
- after an outbreak of an infectious disease **R**
  - prior to introduction of a new greyhound **R**
  - prior to whelping **R**
  - upon the arrival of puppies **R**
- 5.22 Greyhounds must be removed prior to hosing of greyhound housing areas and must not be returned until cleaning is complete and the area is dry. **R**

## Preventing transmission of disease

- 5.23 Visitors to all greyhound housing areas must be provided with access to hot- and cold-water hand washing facilities with soap, or hand sanitising stations.
- 5.24 Greyhounds diagnosed with or suspected of having an infectious disease must be separated from other dogs as soon as possible, kept isolated and cared for in a suitable area away from all other dogs at the premises. (The affected greyhound(s) may need to be isolated in the care of a veterinary practice if suitable facilities cannot be provided on-site.) **R**
- 5.25 Effective **biosecurity procedures** must be put in place to prevent spread of the infectious agent from isolation areas to other parts of the premises, or to other dogs or people. **R**

## **Pest control**

- 5.26** Safe and effective measures must be taken to control pests and vermin (including fleas, ticks, flies, mosquitoes, spiders and rodents) in greyhound housing areas. **R**
- 5.27** Pest control chemicals must be kept in their original containers and used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 5.28** Greyhounds must be removed from any areas where and while noxious pest control chemicals are being used. **R**

## **Emergency evacuation procedures**

- 5.29** Participants must ensure that an emergency evacuation plan is in place and displayed prominently within any facility housing greyhounds. **R**
- 5.30** Participants must ensure that greyhounds can be removed safely in the event of an emergency. **R**
- 5.31** Participants must ensure that all greyhound housing areas have adequate fire protection, such as sprinkler systems and/or fire extinguishers, with smoke detectors being desirable. **R**

*Note: participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply with those Standards marked with an "R" in relation to those greyhounds.*

## 6 Transporting Greyhounds

**Objective** *To ensure that greyhounds are transported in a safe and secure manner that provides for their wellbeing.*

### Standards

- 6.1 Greyhounds must not be transported in a manner likely to cause injury or undue stress to the greyhound. **R**
- 6.2 **Compartments** and **cages** used for transporting greyhounds must be **weatherproof**, have adequate ventilation and be maintained at a comfortable temperatures and level of humidity for greyhounds.
- 6.3 When using compartments or cages for transporting greyhounds, participants must:
- provide enough space for the greyhound to sit, lie down and stand in a natural position;
  - where more than two greyhounds are transported in the same compartment or cage, individually restrain greyhounds during transport;
  - fix compartments/cages securely to the transport vehicle;
  - keep compartments/cages clean; and
  - disinfect compartments/cages at least every 3 months, or as otherwise necessary to maintain good hygiene.
- 6.4 When being transported by road, greyhounds must, unless it is unsafe to do so, be removed from transport compartments/cages at least every three hours and offered an opportunity to drink, **exercise** and toilet.
- 6.5 Transport compartments or cages may only be used for temporary housing of greyhounds whilst attending race meetings or **trials**. Greyhounds temporarily housed in transport compartments or cages must be provided with access to water.

*Note: participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply with those Standards marked with an “**R**” in relation to those greyhounds.*

## 7 Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment

**Objective** *To ensure that every greyhound is provided with adequate exercise, socialisation and enrichment for provide for its wellbeing.*

### Standards

- 7.1** All greyhounds, including puppies from the age of 3 weeks, must be provided with daily exposure to humans through gentle **handling**. **R**
- 7.2** All puppies and greyhounds older than 8 weeks of age must be provided with regular contact with, and exposure to, other vaccinated dogs that are compatible.
- 7.3** Participants must provide greyhounds in their care with opportunities for expression of normal canine behaviours, to prevent stress and anxiety. If a greyhound shows signs of stress or anxiety which do not resolve quickly, or exhibits stereotypic behaviours, participants must seek veterinary treatment. **R**

### Puppies aged 0-8 weeks

- 7.4** Each day, puppies aged 0-8 weeks must be provided with:
- a) access to normal puppy activity and play with its mother and littermates;
  - b) exposed to a variety of **surfaces**; and,
  - c) a variety of toys that are 'safe' for puppies (cannot be destroyed and/or swallowed).

### Puppies aged 8-16 weeks

- 7.5** Puppies aged 8-16 weeks must be provided with:
- a) a minimum of one hour per day to run or play within a secured area outside of the greyhound housing area, and
  - b) access to safe toys for interactive play.
- 7.6** During each week, puppies aged 8-16 weeks must be provided with **training** to respond to basic verbal commands, and four or more of the following:
- a) lessons in how to walk on a lead whilst wearing a collar;
  - b) chasing games for play;
  - c) exposure to a variety of surfaces;
  - d) exposure to new experiences;
  - e) a variety of safe toys;
  - f) travel in car and trailers;

h) exposure to different levels (such as walking up and down stairs).

**7.7** Puppies aged 8-16 weeks must be housed in groups or pairs, unless otherwise directed by a veterinarian.

### **Greyhounds older than 16 weeks which have not yet commenced training**

**7.8** Greyhounds older than 16 weeks which have not yet commenced training for **racing** must be provided with:

- a) access to a secure area outside of the greyhound housing area for play, for a minimum of five hours each day;
- b) interactive play or obedience training each day; and,
- c) each week, three or more of the following:
  - reward-based training;
  - walking on a lead;
  - travel in cars or trailers;
  - racing-related activities (such as access to starting boxes, circular **training facilities**, straight tracks, lures or race-day cages).

### **Pregnant or lactating greyhounds**

**7.9** Pregnant or lactating greyhounds must be provided with:

- a) access to an **exercise yard** or walked on a lead for at least 60 minutes each day;
- b) access to safe toys at all times, where this is beneficial to the greyhound.

### **Greyhounds in training or racing**

**7.10** Greyhounds that are in training or racing must be provided with:

- a) at least 30 minutes of free exercise each day, in the form of either free play outside the housing area or being walked on a lead.
- b) access to toys.

### **Spelling, breeding and retired greyhounds**

**7.11** All greyhounds which are being **spelled** or bred or which are **retired** must be provided with the following activities for a minimum of 60 minutes each day:

- a) exercise in an area outside the greyhound housing area, either through walking on a lead or access to an exercise yard.
- b) access to safe toys. **R**

### **Exercise, socialisation and enrichment plan**

**7.12** Participants must have a written plan detailing how the Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment standards in this Code will be met for the greyhounds in their care.

**7.13** An **Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment Plan** may be temporarily varied or suspended where a greyhound is undergoing veterinary treatment and requires rest or rehabilitation as part of its treatment.

### **Muzzling**

**7.14** Any **muzzle** used on a greyhound must be the correct size and properly fitted, and must not cause pain, injury or distress to the greyhound. **R**

**7.15** **Barking muzzles** must not be used. Any muzzle used on a greyhound must not restrict normal behaviours such as panting or drinking. **R**

**7.16** Greyhounds must not be muzzled for more than 60 minutes at a time, and for no more than two hours in a 24-hour period, unless the greyhound is:

- a) being walked in a public place; **R**
- b) being transported in a vehicle or trailer; **R**
- c) in race or trial kennels; **R**
- d) acclimatising to a new environment; **R**
- e) subject to a dangerous dog order made under the *Dog Control Act 2000*; **R** or
- f) under written direction by a veterinarian, or a Tasracing-appointed canine behaviourist. **R**

**7.17** Greyhounds under the age of nine months must not be muzzled at any time, except:

- a) as part of the education process and then only whilst in the presence of a participant. **R**
- b) while being transported in a vehicle or trailer; **R** or
- c) at the written direction of a veterinarian. **R**

**7.18** Any veterinary direction in relation to muzzling of a greyhound that extends for longer than 6 months must be reviewed by a veterinarian within six months from the date that the direction was issued. **R**

*Note: participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply with those Standards marked with an “R” in relation to those greyhounds.*

## 8 Training, Trialling and Racing

**Objective** *To ensure that welfare of greyhounds is protected in greyhound training, trialling and racing.*

### Standards

#### Training and trialling facilities

**8.1** All training facilities, **trial tracks** and equipment used in the training, trialling and racing of greyhounds must be appropriately constructed, maintained, and fit for purpose, and any greyhound using such facilities and equipment must be supervised at all times.

#### Training methods

**8.2** Training of greyhounds must be based on positive reinforcement and the use of rewards-based methods.

**8.3** Teaching, training, and all other interactions with greyhounds, must be kind and humane.

**8.4** **Aversive devices and substances** must not be used in the training of greyhounds.

#### Walking machines

**8.5** A walking machine must only be used where:

- a) it is used in conjunction with other forms of exercise;
- b) it is being supervised during use;
- c) the greyhound has been behaviourally conditioned to willingly use a walking machine; and
- d) the greyhound shows no signs of ongoing reluctance, fear or distress while using the walking machine.

#### Greyhound trialling and racing

**8.6**

- a) Greyhounds shall only participate in trials or races that are conducted at a registered trial track or licensed racecourse.
- b) No greyhound under the age of 16 months shall be nominated for a race.
- c) No greyhound under the age of 12 months shall participate in a trial.
- d) A greyhound that is presented for a trial or race must be fit and in proper condition to trial or race.

- e) Greyhounds must be presented for examination by an **On-track Veterinarian** prior to starting in a race.
- f) A greyhound must not participate in a race or trial on consecutive days.
- g) A female greyhound must not participate in or attend a race or trial if she is or is suspected of being pregnant or in season.
- h) A greyhound which has whelped a litter must not participate in a race or trial until at least ten weeks after the date of whelping.
- i) A greyhound which has mated or had semen drawn must not participate in a trial or race until at least two days after the mating or drawing of semen.
- j) Any injury sustained by a greyhound during a trial must, as soon as practicable, be reported by the participant to the attending **steward**, or, if the trial is conducted at a registered trial track, the injury must be reported to the trial track operator, and the injured dog receive appropriate veterinary care with veterinary treatment sought where necessary.
- k) Any injury sustained by a greyhound during a race must be reported by the participant to the attending steward and On-Track Veterinarian.
- l) Any request made by a steward or On-Track Veterinarian to seek veterinary treatment for a greyhound must be followed.

## 9 Rehoming Greyhounds as Companion Animals

**Objective** *To optimise rehoming outcomes for greyhounds that are retired or otherwise unsuitable for racing.*

### Standards

#### Retirement and preparation of greyhounds for rehoming

**9.1** Where a greyhound **owner** does not wish to retain a greyhound, the owner must ensure, as far as reasonably possible, that the greyhound is prepared for **rehoming** as a **companion animal**, including providing the greyhound with appropriate **socialisation**. **R**

#### Requirements for rehoming of greyhounds

**9.2** Greyhounds must be desexed prior to being rehomed as a companion animal, even if they remain under the care of a registered person. **R**

**9.3** Participants must not transfer a greyhound to a person who is under the age of 18 years. **R**

**9.4** Greyhounds must not be sold or rehomed via an online public marketplace platform.

**9.5** Where the last registered owner or person responsible for the greyhound rehomes the greyhound directly to any individual person and not through a registered adoption agency, then they must:

- Confirm that the person adopting the person is at least 18 years of age.
- Verify and retain a record of the person's address and contact details (as per the person's Drivers Licence or other similar form of identification).
- Provide the person with all relevant information with respect to the history of the greyhound, including any known behaviours or medical conditions that may be present or require treatment.
- Provide the person with a suitable lead and muzzle.
- Verbally confirm that the person has premises that can safely contain the greyhound, and that they understand the greyhound is not permitted to be "off-lead" in any public place.
- Accept the return of the greyhound from the person for a period of not less than 28 days for any reason provided it is returned in the state in which it was rehomed, and make that known to the person when releasing the greyhound to them.

**9.6** Participants rehoming a greyhound must provide the new owner with written instructions specifying appropriate care instructions for the greyhound.

**9.7** Greyhounds must only be rehomed with an up-to-date vaccination record and after having received appropriate treatment to prevent and/or remove gastrointestinal and skin parasites.

**9.8** It is an offence for a participant to transfer a greyhound in circumstances where the participant knows, or ought to know, or has reason to believe, that the greyhound may be  **euthanased**. **R**

## Euthanasia

**9.9** It is an offence for a participant to euthanase a greyhound, or cause a greyhound to be euthanased, other than in emergency circumstances where:

- a) delaying euthanasia would result in the greyhound experiencing unacceptable pain and suffering; and
- b) a veterinarian has been consulted, but is unable to attend in a timely manner, **or** all reasonable attempts to consult a veterinarian have failed (such attempts need to be documented); and
- c) transporting the greyhound to a veterinarian would unreasonably prolong its suffering; and
- d) the euthanasia is performed using humane methods, with the only acceptable method of euthanasia under these circumstances being use of a firearm administered by a person appropriately licensed under the *Firearms Act 1996* and competent to do so. **R**

Participants are also required to comply with GAR 22 *Notification of retirement, euthanasia, or death of a greyhound* and Tasmanian Local Rules 22.11, 22.12, 22.13, 22.14, 22.15 and 22.16.

*Note: participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply with those Standards marked with an “R” in relation to those greyhounds.*

## 10 Personnel Education and Training

**Objective** *To ensure that greyhound racing industry participants understand their responsibilities under this Code of Practice so that optimum welfare outcomes for the greyhounds in their care can be achieved.*

### Standards

- 10.1** A person responsible for a greyhound must be appropriately trained and/or competent, or have the assistance of one or more people who are appropriately trained and/or competent, to care for the greyhound.
- 10.2** A person responsible for a greyhound must keep a record of having read and understood these Standards for themselves, and for any other person assisting them to care for the greyhound.
- 10.3** Areas of training and competency for people who have care of a greyhound must include:
- a) recognising signs of ill health and abnormal behaviour;
  - b) appropriate care and/or treatment of injury, disease or distress;
  - c) maintaining the greyhound's living environment;
  - d) general greyhound husbandry and management, including the provision of food and water and the maintenance of hygienic accommodation;
  - e) handling of greyhounds, including human safety;
  - f) safe transport of greyhounds, including determining fitness for transport and use of appropriate facilities for greyhound transport; and
  - g) accurate record keeping.
- 10.4** Where a person responsible for keeping a greyhound employs people or otherwise has the assistance of other people, those people must be given appropriate site-specific induction upon first engagement and at any other time when there is a significant change to equipment, practices or procedures on the premises.
- 10.5** Supporting evidence of training and competency to include one or more of the following:
- a) records of on-the-job training;
  - b) relevant experience;
  - c) recognised training and/or qualifications;
  - d) staff training registers;
  - e) induction training; or
  - f) Supervisor sign-off for specific tasks.

## 11 Record keeping

**Objective** *To ensure that record-keeping in relation to this Code of Practice complies with the Rules of Racing and regulatory requirements.*

### Standards

- 11.1** Any record required to be kept as a result of these Standards must be:
- a)** stored securely for a period not less than five (5) years;
  - b)** legible;
  - c)** accessible at any time; and
  - d)** produced upon lawful request to an authorised person, including a member of the Tasracing Integrity Unit, other officers of Tasracing, the Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner, or an officer authorised under the *Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024 (Tas)*, *Animal Welfare Act 1993 (Tas)*, *Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016 (Tas)*, *Dog Control Act 2000 (Tas)*, *Dog Control Regulations 2021 (Tas)*, the *Biosecurity Act 2019 (Tas)*, or the *Biosecurity Regulations 2022 (Tas)*.
- 11.2** Records created for the purpose of adhering to these Standards must be kept on the premises where the greyhound is located.
- 11.3** The types of records to be kept include, amongst others, personnel education and training records, records of treatment, movement and training of greyhounds.

### Notes

When creating and keeping records, people must be aware of their obligations for privacy where those records might contain a person's Personal Information.

## Acknowledgements

The following documents were used as reference when compiling this Code of Practice:

- **Tasracing Recommended Standards for The Care of Greyhounds**
- **Tasracing Greyhound Animal Welfare Manual**, April 2015
- **Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds**, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, The State of Victoria, April 2018
- **Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds**, Version 2.0, Racing and Wagering Western Australia, April 2019
- **NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice**, NSW Government, July 2020
- **Greyhound Racing SA Animal Welfare Policy 2021**, public release version 1, October 2012

## Document Control

This Code of Practice will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier, if appropriate.

Date	Version	Author	Approved by
14/08/2024	1.2	Dr Martin Lenz, Chief Veterinary & Animal Welfare Officer Tasracing	Andrew Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer Tasracing
23/12/2025	1.3	Dr Martin Lenz, CV&AWO Tasracing	Andrew Jenkins, CEO Tasracing
Next Review Date	1/10/2027		