



New South Wales Greyhound Animal Welfare Policy (November 2006)

Introduction

The welfare of all animals must be a primary consideration for all participants in the greyhound racing industry.

There is a growing demand within our sport and the wider community for greyhound racing to speak out against any cruelty to animals and to demonstrate a firm commitment to the welfare of greyhounds.

The overwhelming majority of greyhound owners and trainers love their dogs and are strongly committed to their welfare. This policy reflects this reality by documenting what already exists in most cases.

The NSW Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority (GHRRA) has the legal responsibility and authority to regulate animal welfare within the NSW greyhound racing industry.

The New South Wales industry operates within a well-established national structure. The following animal welfare vision, objectives and strategy are provided by the national peak body for greyhound racing, Greyhounds Australasia.

Vision

All policies should have a vision statement to ensure they achieve their objectives and the vision for National Animal Welfare is that:

“All greyhounds in Australasia are protected and promoted by the adoption and development of sound animal welfare standards and practices”.

Objectives

The Policy Framework for National Animal Welfare is to provide clear direction and firm commitment to high standards of animal welfare. The policy clarifies roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. It recognizes the care, uses and direct and indirect impacts of human activity on all greyhounds. It also covers the welfare of animals transported to and from Australasia.

It embraces a broad vision for the humane treatment of all greyhounds and provides a framework for sustainable improvements in animal welfare outcomes, based on scientific evidence and social, economic and ethical considerations. This reflects the high regard GA places on the value, care and well-being of greyhounds both for racing and as pets within the community.

A national framework will ensure effective communication, education and training across the whole industry and will promote an improved understanding of animal welfare and aim for sustainable long-term improvements in animal welfare.

Strategy

A true national approach will ensure commitment from all stakeholders towards high standards of animal welfare based on concise processes which include:

- 1) Ensuring that all administrative, legislative and planning mechanisms support effective management of animal welfare in Australasia by:
 - Establishing a shared understanding of respective roles and responsibilities across all states and territories within Australasia.
 - Facilitate the maintenance of effective animal welfare programs in each jurisdiction.
 - Promote the adoption of a harmonised approach to the development and application of clear, contemporary, adequate and consistent animal welfare legislation and codes of practice
 - To involve all stakeholders in ownership of the animal welfare policy, by encouraging the use of effective consultative and communication mechanisms to engage all.

- 2) Achieve sustainable improvements in animal welfare based on national standards by:
 - Strengthening the framework for enhancing the delivery of acceptable animal welfare outcomes. For instance it will assist with the development, collection and collation of national statistics on animal welfare standards.

- Promote the development and use of humane and effective methods of welfare.
 - Expand Australasia's efforts to inform international bodies of our current standards by establishing closer working relationships.
 - Contribute to the development of international welfare standards.
 - Identify possible research and development needs.
- 3) Achieve effective communication, education and training across the entire industry by:
- Enhancing the attitudes, skills and knowledge of animal carers and handlers and all other people whose actions have a potential effect/impact on the greyhound racing industry by developing national standards which:
 - Promote consultation and the dissemination of information on animal care and encourage the adoption of best practice standards.
 - Develop and promote educational programs for the improvement of skills of people.
 - Publicise the existence and content of existing animal welfare legislation

Other supporting literature in relation to National Animal Welfare is the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR). These rules were formally the Australian Greyhound Racing Rules and are commonly known as the National Racing Rules. These rules outline legislative obligations on greyhound welfare.

Animal and greyhound welfare: roles and responsibilities

The greyhound racing industry, its promoters and regulators are collectively accountable for the welfare of all animals involved in greyhound racing in NSW.

This accountability covers the whole lifecycle of the greyhound as well as all aspects of greyhound racing.

The GHRRA recognises, GRNSW, the clubs and the owners and trainers of greyhounds each have distinct roles to play in relation to animal welfare. An effective animal welfare policy must to recognise these respective roles and responsibilities.

Role of Greyhound & Harness Racing Regulatory Authority (GHRRA)

GHRRA has primary responsibility for the control of greyhound and animal welfare in the NSW greyhound racing industry through the implementation of relevant policies, rules and regulations as well as information and education programs.

Role of Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW)

GRNSW undertakes to further the welfare of greyhounds in NSW through the development of an industry policy stance on greyhound and animal welfare and by insisting on Clubs adhering to GHRRA animal and greyhound welfare policies and regulations as a condition of their registration.

Role of Greyhound Racing Clubs

GHRRA expects all greyhound racing clubs to recognise the importance of animal and greyhound welfare in all aspects of their operations and adhere to all GHRRA policies and regulations in this regard together with the GRNSW Operating Standards including minimum infrastructure standards regarding kennels (See GRNSW operating Standards & Guidelines D4 – Racing Infrastructure), and to comply with the GRNSW Policy and Procedure for the Provision of Greyhound Injury Management Services at Non-TAB Meetings.

Role of Greyhound Racing Participants

GHRRA expects every individual greyhound owner to take personal responsibility for the welfare of their greyhounds including ensuring that any trainers or other persons charged with their management strictly adhere to all GHRRA animal welfare policies and regulations.

The GHRRA and GRNSW join with all greyhound racing authorities in Australia in adopting clear, consistent and robust policy guidelines and regulations that demonstrate commitment to animal welfare.

Principles and Policies on Greyhound and Animal Welfare

GHRRA endorses the universal principles of animal welfare that all animals have the right to:

- Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
- Freedom from discomfort – by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- Freedom to express normal behaviour – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
- Freedom from fear and distress – by ensuring conditions that avoid mental suffering

GHRRA condemns:

- Any form of cruelty and neglect of greyhounds and other animals. All clubs and industry participants must take appropriate action where such cruelty or neglect is identified, including reporting offending parties to the RSPCA or other relevant authorities that are in a position to take action against an offender
- The use of any live animal in the training or racing of greyhounds and will take prompt disciplinary action against any club allowing such practices to take place on its premises at any time
- The use of greyhounds for any unjustifiable medical or other experiments
- The export of greyhounds to countries without a properly managed greyhound racing industry, or where such an industry is not sufficiently regulated to ensure the welfare of greyhounds

The GHRRA recognises the work of GRNSW in compiling the submission on which this policy statement was based and the GRNSW will work with GHRRA to develop:

- Lifetime 'tracking' of all registered greyhounds pups to ensure industry accountability for the welfare of all greyhounds bred in NSW
- Policies and initiatives to extend the racing life of greyhounds where this does not adversely affect the welfare of the greyhound
- Appropriate breeding policies that support the principles of animal welfare

GRNSW will actively promote and support the Greyhound Adoption Program to find responsible, loving, long-term homes for as many greyhounds as possible.

GRNSW will support and promote GHRRA policies and regulatory proposals that require greyhound racing clubs and associated organisations:

- To provide and maintain a safe racing environment to minimise the risk of injury to greyhounds before, during or after their race, including at trial tracks
- To make clubs accountable for greyhound welfare issues associated with the club's facilities and activities
- To provide appropriate canine first aid resources and facilities at all trial and race meetings and
- To ensure prompt access to veterinary services as required treating or euthanase injured dogs at all races and trial races.

‘Standards of Care’ for greyhound welfare

The GHRRA and GRNSW consider that the implementation of the above greyhound and animal welfare principles requires:

- Responsible planning and management of the greyhound racing industry
- Caring, skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious greyhound management of the greyhound throughout its life
- Appropriate design of the greyhound’s living and racing environment
- Considerate handling and appropriate transportation of greyhounds with adequate climate control and sufficient air flow ventilation
- Humane euthanasia of greyhounds by an authorised person where such action is unavoidable

Good Practice Guidelines for ‘Standards of Care’

GHRRA and GRNSW have developed the attached Good Practice Guidelines for ‘standards of care’ that address greyhound and animal welfare issues covering all stages and aspects of a greyhound’s life cycle and activities.

Acknowledgments

GHRRA and GRNSW acknowledge the advice and assistance of Dr Tom Astbury and Dr Phil Davis in the preparation of these Good Practice Guidelines.

It should also be noted this Policy is a “living document” and will undergo periodic review to ensure its currency and applicability.



NSW GREYHOUND ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR STANDARDS OF CARE AND MANAGEMENT AT EACH STAGE IN THE LIFE CYCLE OF A GREYHOUND (November 2006)

1 FROM CONCEPTION, WHELPING AND REARING OF PUPS TO 12 WEEKS

1.1	Ensure every pregnant greyhound is wormed and immunised as per the advice of your veterinarian prior to whelping.
1.2	Ensure every pregnant and lactating greyhound is healthy and robust prior to and after the birth of pups by feeding frequently.
1.3	Prior to the birth of pups, arrange to have a vet on call in case of emergency.
1.4	Provide a whelping box of an appropriate size with adequate temperature control; the floor should be lined with absorbent disposable material, which is changed daily eg newspaper.
1.5	Seek advice from qualified or experienced person about nutrition and worming of lactating greyhounds and pups.
1.6	If the lactating bitch displays a dark coloured discharge you should contact your veterinarian immediately.
1.7	Up until 12 weeks, pups must have sufficient space to move around kennel and yard.
1.8	Pups must be inoculated at 6 and 12 weeks and ear branded; pups should not leave the breeder's premises until after ear branding and second inoculation has taken place and <u>must not be sold without a current certification against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus.</u>

2 PUPS FROM 12 WEEKS TO PRE-TRAINING

2.1	Owners must ensure that pups are reared in a yard or paddock in which they can run at full speed. It is preferable if pups can be reared with litter-mates only.
2.2	Pups must receive sufficient food and water at all times to maintain good health. Section 9 of these Guidelines sets out aspects relating to the provision of food and water to Greyhounds. Also, appended to this Framework is a set of detailed Guidelines on Nutrition and Feeding at different stages of the Greyhound life cycle.
2.3	Pups must be wormed regularly and kept free of ticks and fleas
2.4	Before going into a formal breaking in program, greyhounds (between 12 to 15 months) should go to a kennel establishment to be taught to walk on a lead and acclimatise to a kennel environment for at least 1 month.

3 PRE-TRAINING (from 14 months)

3.1	An owner should put careful thought into choosing the education program for a young greyhound. This is usually a 4-week course where greyhounds are taught to chase the lure and made familiar with and comfortable with starting boxes. No live animals are to be used in this process.
3.2	Feeding standards during this period should be designed to support the intense activity levels during this period. Appendix A3 is a set of detailed Guidelines on Nutrition and Feeding at different stages of the Greyhound life cycle.
3.3	Identification of appropriate veterinary resources to ensure the continuing health and wellbeing of young greyhounds.
3.4	It is preferable for a greyhound to have a month's spelling period after breaking in before being put into full training and work.

4 RACE TRAINING (18 MONTHS TO RETIREMENT)

4.1	Appendix A1 is a set of detailed Guidelines relating to desirable minimum skill/knowledge levels for greyhound trainers on Canine Health and First Aid.
4.2	It is essential that kennels are in a suitable location, are of a satisfactory standard and are properly maintained. Section 10 of these Guidelines sets out minimum criteria for a suitable kennel environment while Section 11 sets out minimum criteria in terms of hygiene.
4.3	Appendix A2 is a set of detailed animal welfare Guidelines relating to Training Programs for Greyhounds.
4.4	Section 9 of these Guidelines sets out aspects relating to the provision of food and water to Greyhounds. Also, Appendix A3 is a set of detailed Guidelines on Nutrition and Feeding at different stages of the Greyhound life cycle.
4.5	Identification and documentation of regular use of appropriate veterinary resources to minimise the potential for injury to greyhounds in training and racing (see Health care below).

5 RACING

5.1	Race and trial track kennels, including ventilation and soundproofing, should comply with requirements set by Greyhound Racing NSW.
5.2	Rules and policies for pre-race kennelling consistent with greyhound welfare.
5.3	The GHRRA <i>Hot weather Policy</i> , including triggers for abandoning race meetings, it to be complied with.
5.4	Standards for canine first aid skills and facilities at all trial and race tracks (including canine first aid kits, stretchers and canine first aid room) are to be complied with, refer to 5.7 following.
5.5	Clubs to ensure appropriate access to veterinary services at all races including compulsory vet attendance at TAB races.
5.6	Tested and well-publicised procedures for clubs to contact a designated 'on call' vet at non-TAB meetings and trials.
5.7	Clubs must adhere to the <i>Policy & Procedure for the Provision of Injury Management Services at non-TAB meetings</i> .

6 SALE AND EXPORT OF GREYHOUNDS

6.1	Registered owners are accountable for the welfare of all greyhounds registered to them, whether of racing quality or not.
6.2	NSW registered greyhounds should only be sold or exported to reputable trainers/owners in countries with a properly managed and regulated greyhound racing industry, which respects the welfare of greyhounds and other animals. No greyhound should be exported without a greyhound passport being issued by Greyhounds Australasia.

7 RETIREMENT

7.1	Grading and race programming policies to be reviewed to investigate means of extending the racing life of a greyhound.
7.2	Standards to be developed for the appropriate management and care to ensure the welfare of the non-racing greyhound (of any age).
7.3	Reduction in number of unwanted greyhounds through longer racing careers in other greyhound industries where this is consistent with the welfare of the dogs.
7.4	Increase in the proportion of 'retired' greyhounds adopted through the GAP program through financial support and promotion of the GAP program in NSW.
7.5	Minimise need for euthanasia of 'retired' racing greyhounds wherever possible.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR STANDARDS OF CARE AND MANAGEMENT AT ALL STAGES IN THE LIFE CYCLE OF A GREYHOUND

8 GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF GREYHOUNDS

	Care of Greyhounds
8.1	Greyhounds must be protected from distress or injury caused by other greyhounds or interference by people.
8.2	Greyhounds that may be distressed by the presence of other greyhounds should be housed in a manner that prevents or minimises visual and/or olfactory contact.
8.3	All equipment, facilities and yard constructions which may affect the welfare of greyhounds, should be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of illness or injury.
	Record keeping
8.4	Appropriate records, in accordance with regulatory requirements, must be kept for: (a) The acquisition and disposal of greyhounds (b) Illness and death of greyhounds (c) Veterinary treatment (d) Trading in greyhounds subject to regulatory control.
	Staff involved in the care of greyhounds
8.5	All staff should be aware of their responsibilities toward greyhounds and be competent to carry these out. Formal training, such as a technical college qualification in greyhound care, is encouraged.
8.6	Members of staff should be knowledgeable and experienced.

9 FOOD AND WATER

9.1	Greyhounds must receive appropriate and sufficient food and water at all times to maintain good health and growth, recognising the special needs of differing ages.
9.2	Food must be stored in a manner that best prevents its deterioration.
	Feeding
9.3	Healthy mature greyhounds in race training must be fed at least once each day so as to provide adequate nutrition for their race training needs.
9.4	Puppies should be fed at least twice each day or more frequently.
9.5	All healthy greyhounds should be fed at least once each day, or more frequently if pregnant or nursing puppies.
9.6	Sick greyhounds should be fed in accordance with veterinary advice.
9.7	Food and water containers must be stable, non-toxic, and easily cleaned/disinfected. Containers should be readily accessible to greyhounds, and be positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.
	Containers
9.8	Spoiled food must be removed.
9.9	Fresh water must be available at all times from ceramic, glass, plastic, aluminium stainless steel or galvanised iron containers, as appropriate.
	Pups and young greyhounds
9.10	All young greyhounds must receive appropriate, uncontaminated and nutritionally adequate food according to the accepted requirements for their activity levels and age.
9.11	A variety of foods should be supplied. Fresh meat and quality dry foods will form the staple diet in most cases.

9.12	Pups up to 6 months of age should be fed twice daily. All young greyhounds should be fed at least daily.
9.13	Food should be prepared hygienically and served in clean, unspellable containers.
9.14	Food should be stored appropriately, i.e., dry food kept in a rodent-free place and fresh meat kept refrigerated.
9.15	One feeding container should be provided for each greyhound or puppy.

10 KENNELS (OWNED BY PARTICIPANTS)

	Location of kennels
10.1	Greyhound kennels should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could stress or injure greyhounds and positioned in a shaded area where possible.
	Construction of kennels
10.2	Greyhound enclosures must be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury, disease, theft or escape of greyhounds.
10.3	Greyhound enclosures should prevent interference to greyhounds by unauthorised people.
10.4	Greyhound enclosures must be designed for ease of cleaning, feeding, watering and the regular inspection of greyhounds kept.
10.5	All solid surfaces of greyhound enclosures must be impervious or painted, to facilitate cleaning and disinfection. Only non-toxic paint should be used in greyhound enclosures.
	Temperature
10.6	Environmental temperature should be controlled to minimise distress to greyhounds. Heating or cooling should be provided for young greyhounds as necessary.
10.7	Greyhound enclosures should have adequate shade when exposed to direct sunlight.
10.8	Greyhound enclosures should be free from draughts.
	Noise
10.9	Loud or sudden noise, which may distress greyhounds, should be avoided.
	Lighting
10.10	The duration and intensity of internal lighting should be as close as possible to natural conditions.
10.11	Lighting must be sufficient to enable thorough inspection of greyhounds.
10.12	Care must be taken to ensure that lights do not generate excessive heat.
	Ventilation
10.13	Ventilation must be sufficient to avoid excessive heat or cold, dampness and draughts, and minimise noxious odours.
	Security
10.14	Premises must be secure. Outside greyhound enclosures must be fitted with secure doors or gates.
10.15	All external openings should be screened to prevent escape of greyhounds and where possible minimise the entry of insects.
10.16	All greyhound enclosures must be able to be securely fastened or locked.
10.17	Appropriate fire fighting equipment must be readily available and staff trained and practised in its use.
10.18	Emergency procedures should be developed for the safe evacuation of both humans and greyhounds from a kennel block in case of an emergency.

11 HYGIENE

	<i>Cleaning and disinfection</i>
11.1	Greyhound enclosures, their surrounds and enclosed equipment must be kept clean to assist with disease prevention and to ensure the well being of greyhounds.
11.2	Greyhound enclosures should be managed to minimise the risk of cross-infection.
11.3	All internal greyhound enclosures should be treated with appropriate disinfectants once a week or more frequently as necessary.
11.4	Cleaning and disinfection chemicals and materials should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness. They must only be used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
	<i>Pest control</i>
11.5	Pests, including fleas, flies, lice, mosquitoes and wild rodents, must be controlled.
11.6	Specialist advice should be sought before pest control operations are conducted, in order to protect the health and safety of the staff and the greyhounds kept.
11.7	Chemicals used for pest control should be registered under the Pesticides Act and only used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
	<i>Waste disposal</i>
11.8	Droppings, bedding and food wastes must be disposed of promptly and hygienically, in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority.

12 TRANSPORT

12.1	Transport should only be in containers, trailers or motor vehicles designed for the purpose of transporting animals of greyhound size.
12.2	All greyhounds transported within motor vehicles should be suitably restrained to ensure security and protection for the driver and passengers of the vehicle as well as that of the greyhound.
12.3	Vehicle transport internal areas should permit a greyhound to turn around, but otherwise be of appropriate size to avoid trauma during transport.
12.4	Greyhounds must be protected from extremes of temperature. They must be provided with adequate light and ventilation.
12.5	Food and water should be provided and greyhounds must be given regular opportunity to relieve themselves outside the vehicle, during long periods of transportation.
12.6	Transport by air should be conducted in accordance with IATA standards.

13 RACE TRAINING CARE

13.1	Exercise designed to prepare the greyhound for racing should be regular and incremental and not excessive.
13.2	A competent person should carefully examine greyhounds after fast exercise for any signs of injury or physical stress.
13.3	Race trialling should only be carried out at tracks licensed for the purpose.
13.4	Greyhounds found to be injured must not be exercised or galloped in a manner that may aggravate such injury.
13.5	Injury sustained through exercise shall be treated in accordance with accepted veterinary practice, which may include resting or spelling in order to facilitate recovery.
13.6	Drugs as defined by the GHRRA shall not be administered to a greyhound for any purpose unless by, or under the instructions of, a veterinary surgeon and only in accordance with the regulations relevant to racing.

14 HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE

	Health checks
14.1	All greyhounds should be inspected at least once daily to monitor their health and well being.
14.2	The person checking greyhounds should note if each greyhound is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eating - Drinking - Defecating - Urinating - Behaving normally - Showing any obvious signs of illness or distress - Is free from injury and able to move about freely.
14.3	Any changes in health status must be promptly reported to the person responsible for appropriate action.
	Veterinary care
14.4	Young greyhounds and puppies should be monitored for health daily in accordance with the Health Care standards.
14.5	The responsible registered person should establish liaison with a veterinary surgeon that is able to attend to greyhounds in his or her care, and is also able to advise on disease prevention measures.
14.6	The manager and staff should be familiar with the signs of common diseases and injury of the greyhound.
14.7	When signs of disease or injury are observed, action must be promptly taken to protect the well-being of individual greyhounds and prevent the spread of disease.
14.8	Appropriate veterinary care should be provided for sick greyhounds.
14.9	Greyhounds suspected of being injured or diseased should not be allowed to race, be overworked or offered for sale.
14.10	Sick or injured greyhounds should be kept isolated from healthy greyhounds.
14.11	Veterinary advice should be obtained in the event of unexplained illness or deaths.
14.12	Internal and external parasites should be controlled in accordance with veterinary advice.
	Euthanasia
14.13	Where, as the result of injury or sickness or age, treatment to restore the health or physical wellbeing of a greyhound is impractical or unsuccessful, greyhounds must have the benefit of humane euthanasia.
14.14	Euthanasia should only be performed by a veterinarian or licensed officer.