



Greyhound Re-homing Policy

2 July 2018

This policy is issued under section 12 (b) of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* and is enforceable by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission. The Commission may review this policy at any time.

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1. Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Maximise opportunities for re-homing greyhounds that are retired from, or otherwise unsuitable for, racing
- Eliminate, wherever possible, unnecessary euthanasia of greyhounds
- Ensure that, where it is necessary to euthanase a greyhound, euthanasia is conducted in a humane manner.

2. Application

This Policy applies to all greyhound racing industry participants registered with the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission, and to all greyhounds owned or kept by a greyhound racing industry participant.

A failure to comply with the terms of this Policy can result in disciplinary action under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*.

3. Policy approach

The Commission encourages all greyhound owners to plan for the whole of a greyhound's life.

Greyhounds should be appropriately socialised when young, to maximise their suitability as a companion animal if they are not suitable for racing, or once they retire from racing.

Greyhounds which are physically healthy should be given the opportunity to live out their natural life span as a companion animal.

On retirement, a greyhound owner may wish to keep his or her greyhound as a breeding dog or pet. Many greyhound racing industry participants keep greyhounds as pets, and the Commission encourages this.

As part of its role in protecting the welfare of greyhounds in the greyhound racing industry, the Commission monitors greyhounds throughout their lifecycle.

Where welfare outcomes of greyhounds are deemed to be at risk, the Commission may impose conditions on a participant's registration.

The Commission seeks to eliminate unnecessary euthanasia of greyhounds and, where a participant's efforts to re-home retired greyhounds are considered inadequate, the Commission can take disciplinary action for non-compliance.

4. Policy requirements

4.1. Re-homing requirements

Where a greyhound owner is not able to retain a greyhound which is no longer suitable for racing, the greyhound owner is responsible for its re-homing.

A greyhound owner must make genuine and reasonable attempts to re-home a greyhound before:

- Euthanasia may be considered
- Placing the greyhound with a charitable organisation as defined in the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*, a council pound within the meaning of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, or a similar facility.

In order to meet re-homing requirements, at a minimum greyhound owners must do at least two of the following:

- Seek the greyhound's admission to the Greyhounds As Pets program managed by Greyhound Racing New South Wales;
- Seek to re-home the greyhound through at least one other pet rescue or re-homing organisation; and
- Seek to re-home the greyhound privately, through at least two other unrelated parties, or seek the greyhound's admission to the Greyhounds As Pets program a second time.

The minimum re-homing requirements referred to above do not apply in the following circumstances:

- Where a greyhound has already been re-homed. For example, if a greyhound is re-homed with a friend or family member, the owner must provide a Transfer of Ownership Form (rather than a Re-homing Certificate) which is available at www.gwic.nsw.gov.au;
- Where a greyhound is certified by a registered veterinary practitioner as unsuitable for re-homing due to untreatable behavioural problems (in this situation, the owner must lodge a completed Greyhound Re-homing Unsuitability Certificate with the Notification of Euthanasia Greyhound Form available at www.gwic.nsw.gov.au);
- Where a greyhound is deemed by a registered veterinary practitioner to be suffering from an intractable condition or injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life, such that it is inhumane or would otherwise compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia; or
- Where a greyhound is legally required to be euthanased (e.g. by a court order).

Greyhound owners must document their efforts to re-home a greyhound, using the Greyhound Re-homing Certificate available at www.gwic.nsw.gov.au.

4.2. Euthanasia following failure of attempts to re-home

Where an owner of a greyhound is unable or unwilling to retain a greyhound and unable to re-home the greyhound and the owner wishes to have the greyhound euthanased, the owner must notify the Commission of the intention to euthanase the animal, by lodging a completed Notification of Intent to Euthanase Form and a completed Greyhound Re-homing Certificate available at www.gwic.nsw.gov.au.

Fourteen days' notice of an owner's intention to euthanase a greyhound is required; a greyhound cannot be euthanased less than 14 days after lodgement of a Notification of Intention to Euthanase Form.

The requirement to lodge a Notification of Intention to Euthanase Form does not apply where a greyhound is euthanased for medical reasons as described at section 4.3 below.

Where attempts to re-home a greyhound have been unsuccessful, and an owner has lodged a completed Notification of Intent to Euthanase Form and a completed Greyhound Re-homing Certificate Euthanasia, and at least 14 days have elapsed, the greyhound can be euthanased. Such euthanasia must be performed humanely by a registered veterinary practitioner.

Where a greyhound is euthanased because attempts to re-home it have been unsuccessful, the owner must notify the Commission within 48 hours of the euthanasia being performed, by lodging a completed Euthanasia of Greyhound Notification Form.

This form must be endorsed by the registered veterinary practitioner who performed the euthanasia, and include the following information:

- Details of the greyhound euthanased
- Name of the greyhound owner
- Name of the person presenting the greyhound
- Veterinarian's name, registration number, and name of veterinary practice.

4.3. Medical euthanasia

Euthanasia of a greyhound may be performed where a registered veterinary practitioner deems that the greyhound is suffering from an intractable condition or injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life, such that it is inhumane or would otherwise compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia ('medical euthanasia'). Medical euthanasia must be performed humanely by a registered veterinary practitioner.

A greyhound that is legally required to be euthanased will be considered a medical euthanasia for the purposes of this policy.

Where a greyhound is euthanased for medical reasons, the owner must notify the Commission within 48 hours of the euthanasia being performed, by lodging a completed Euthanasia of Greyhound Notification Form. This form must be endorsed by the registered veterinary practitioner who performed the euthanasia, and include the following information:

- Details of the greyhound euthanased
- Details of the greyhound's medical condition
- Name of the greyhound owner
- Name of the person presenting the greyhound
- Veterinarian's name, registration number, and name of veterinary practice.

4.4. Emergency euthanasia

Euthanasia of greyhounds should be performed by a registered veterinary practitioner. An owner or other person in charge of a greyhound may humanely euthanase a greyhound only where euthanasia is necessary to relieve the animal's suffering and a registered veterinary practitioner is unable to attend in a timely manner, or transporting the animal to a registered veterinary practitioner would unreasonably prolong the animal's suffering, and only after a registered veterinary practitioner has been consulted.

Where an owner or other person in charge of the greyhound euthanases a greyhound, the owner must notify the Commission within 48 hours of the euthanasia being performed, by lodging a completed Notification of Emergency Euthanasia Form. This form requires the owner to provide the name of the registered veterinary practitioner consulted prior to the euthanasia being performed.

5. Document information

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