



Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training

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. Application

- 1.1 This Code applies to persons involved in training greyhounds.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This Code is designed for persons involved in the training of greyhounds. The Code provides an overarching framework for persons involved in the training of greyhounds and specifies minimum standards of accommodation, management and care for greyhounds.
- 2.2 The overriding theme of this Code is that the wellbeing of a greyhound must at all times be considered above the demands of owners, breeders, trainers, sponsors, wagering operators, punters and spectators.
- 2.3 By adhering to this Code, persons involved in the greyhound racing industry can demonstrate to the general community their commitment to uphold the welfare of the greyhounds in their care.

3. Background

- 3.1 This Code provides an overarching framework for trainers by specifying the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care to uphold the welfare of greyhounds. It is not a comprehensive manual to care for a greyhound.
- 3.2 It is acknowledged that the specific needs of a greyhound vary throughout its lifecycle. Participants involved in the breeding, rearing or education of greyhounds should refer to the Code of Practice for the Breeding, Rearing and Education of Greyhounds.
- 3.3 The Code emphasises the importance of best practice management and refers to rules and regulations that persons in charge of greyhounds must abide under the Greyhound Racing Rules which are continued under the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 (NSW). For the purposes of this Code, the person in charge may be the registered trainer, owner or other registered persons who have the care and control of a greyhound.
- 3.4 Compliance with this Code does not remove the need to abide by the requirements of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*, the *Greyhound Racing Regulation 2018*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW), the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2012* (NSW), the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW), the *Companion Animals Regulation 2008* (NSW) or any other laws and regulations, including local government regulations relating to animals.
- 3.5 Persons should be familiar with their responsibilities under these laws and regulations. The responsibility for compliance rests with the person in charge of the greyhound and the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (the Commission) will not be held responsible for any omissions or non-compliance.

4. Guiding principles

- 4.1 This Code sets standards for the care and management of greyhounds on training premises to ensure their basic needs are met.
- 4.2 For the purposes of this Code, premises include land, buildings fixed or moveable, including motor vehicles used for the purpose of breeding, rearing or education of greyhounds.
- 4.3 The basic needs of greyhounds are:
- readily accessible food and water in sufficient quantities to maintain health and vigour;
 - freedom of movement to stand, stretch and lie down;
 - regular exercise;
 - shelter and accommodation that provides protection from the weather;
 - regular inspections to assess the need for veterinary care;
 - internal and external parasite control; and
 - rapid identification and treatment of injury and disease.
- 4.4 For the purposes of this Code, a Trainer means a person registered by the Commission to train a greyhound. Train or training means the preparation, education or exercise of a greyhound to race or trial.
- 4.5 A Trainer must be registered in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Rules to train a greyhound.
- 4.6 A Trainer is responsible for the:
- provision of accommodation and equipment which suits the physical and behavioural requirements of the greyhounds held;
 - protection of greyhounds from people, other animals or adverse environmental conditions;
 - provision of sufficient space for greyhounds to stand, move around freely, stretch fully and rest;
 - provision of sufficient quantities of appropriate food and water to maintain good health;
 - protection of greyhounds as far as possible from disease, distress and injury;
 - provision of prompt veterinary or other appropriate treatment in cases of illness or injury;
 - maintenance of hygiene of the premises and health of the greyhounds held;
 - the supervision of daily feeding, watering and inspection of greyhounds held to ensure their well-being; and
 - the collation and maintenance of relevant treatment records for each greyhound in the Trainer's care.
- 4.7 When greyhounds are admitted to training premises, Trainers must ensure that owners are made aware of this Code by referring to it in the agreement which sets out the terms for greyhounds being accepted onto the premises.

5. Kennel construction

- 5.1 For the purposes of this Code, a kennel is an enclosed space in a training premises used to house greyhounds.

- 5.2 Prior to constructing kennels, Trainers should consult with their local council in relation to any requirements for the keeping of greyhounds or construction of kennels in their local council area. Trainers should also determine:
- the number of greyhounds to be kept in the kennels;
 - the type, construction and finishes of kennels and any local government restrictions;
 - the intended purpose of the kennels e.g. racing, rearing or breeding;
 - the distance of all kennel facilities to boundaries and dwellings on adjoining properties;
 - provision for noise and odour abatement;
 - provision for the management and disposal of solid/liquid wastes and water runoff.
- 5.3 The location of kennels should be away from sources of noise or pollution that could cause injury or stress to the greyhound and out of areas that are prone to flooding and/or bushfires.
- 5.4 Kennels must be constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that maintains the good health and wellbeing of greyhounds, prevents the transmission of infectious disease agents, prevents the escape of greyhounds and does not cause injury risk to either greyhounds or humans.
- 5.5 Kennels must be constructed away from other establishments that house other animals (for example, agricultural livestock) through appropriate fencing.
- 5.6 Vehicles, caravans, trailers, portable crates or the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used to house greyhounds.
- 5.7 The internal surfaces of kennels must be constructed of impervious, solid, washable materials. Wall/floor junctions should be sealed to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.
- 5.8 Floors of kennels should be made of an impervious material to assist cleaning and drainage. Sealed concrete or sealed brick is ideal and should ideally be covered with straw that is replaced frequently.
- 5.9 Individual spaces within kennels must be separated by solid partitions, galvanised mesh or chain wire dividers.
- 5.10 Grassed or landscaped sections may form part of large outdoor kennels but must be adequately maintained and not allowed to deteriorate into bare earth.

6. Kennel size

- 6.1 Kennel areas should provide at least enough space for each animal to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about.
- 6.2 Kennels should be high enough to permit ease of maintenance and cleaning by an adult.
- 6.3 Kennels for adult greyhounds, including sleeping quarters and runs, should meet the following requirements:

Racing Kennel – Minimum size = 3 sq.m (e.g 2m x 1.5m)

A kennel enclosure for housing a single greyhound in race training, generally situated within a secure building and designed to encourage the greyhound to rest.

The minimum width of a kennel for an adult greyhound shall be no less than 1.2 metres.

Fencing should be appropriately constructed and well maintained fencing mesh being 1.8 meters high on a concrete or fixed base.

Posts may be steel and/or wood. Fencing should be strained as appropriate to ensure the security of the greyhound.

Day / Spelling Yard – Minimum size not less than 6sq.m – (if provided)

A wire mesh enclosed space and often with an associated kennel, where a single greyhound may spend short periods of time recuperating outdoors.

Fencing should be a minimum of 1.7m and further 0.1m should be buried into the ground to prevent digging and escape.

Provision for shade either natural or a permanent structure must be provided.

Exercise Yard – (if provided)

A series of two or more fenced enclosures used to exercise greyhounds adjacent to each other. Each yard is generally 30 to 50m in length and 3 to 4 m wide but may vary in shape dependent on site characteristics.

Fencing should be a minimum of 1.2m high. Consideration should be given for shading to be provided if greyhounds are to be exposed for an extended period of time.

7. Security standards

- 7.1 Kennels must be reasonably secure and adequate fencing must exist to prevent escape of greyhounds and prevent access by unauthorised people.
- 7.2 Kennels must be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by greyhounds. Double barriers (a secure area outside the immediate kennels) are recommended to prevent the escape of greyhounds.
- 7.3 Any security methods used must allow for ready access by staff to greyhounds and ready exit of staff and greyhounds from the premises in the event of an emergency.
- 7.4 Fire safety equipment must be readily available and an emergency exit plan as required.
- 7.5 All potential poisons and harmful substances, whether in storage or use, must be kept secure and out of reach of greyhounds.
- 7.6 Prescribed veterinary products should be kept secure with all treatments administered recorded for each greyhound.

8. Environment

- 8.1 Greyhounds must be provided with protection from rain and wind, direct sunlight or other adverse weather conditions and trainers must comply with the Commission's Race Day Hydration and Hot Weather Policy.
- 8.2 Where kennels are constructed outdoors, they must protect the greyhound from the rain and wind and be partially enclosed to provide sheltered sleeping areas.

- 8.3 Where kennels are constructed indoors, the environment should be controlled to ensure the comfort of the greyhound, inclusive of indoor temperature, humidity and appropriate ventilation. Lighting should be as close as possible, in duration and intensity, to natural conditions.
- 8.4 Despite paragraphs 8.2 and 8.3, very old and very young greyhounds are more sensitive than others to changes in temperatures and may require heating or cooling.
- 8.5 Natural lighting is the preferred for kennels, provided shaded areas are available to protect greyhounds from extreme lighting conditions. Artificial light should also be available in greyhound housing areas so that they can be thoroughly cleaned in the evenings and greyhounds can be attended to.
- 8.6 Where natural lighting is not possible, artificial lighting should be used and be similar in duration and intensity to natural lighting.
- 8.7 Kennels should be adequately ventilated to minimise undue draughts, odours and moisture condensation. Greyhounds must not be in contact with wet floors for extended periods of time.
- 8.8 Measures should be in place to reduce the impact of sudden noise.
- 8.9 Noise from barking greyhounds should be managed to comply with local government noise regulations and may be managed by:
- positioning kennels so that they do not face each other;
 - limiting external stimulation by placing partitioning between kennels or using blinds;
 - holding greyhounds singly or in compatible pairs;
 - turning lights off after feeding;
 - exercising greyhounds away from greyhound housing.
- 8.10 The extended use of barking muzzles is not permitted.
- 8.11 The use of barking muzzles at race tracks is strictly prohibited.

9. Bedding

- 9.1 Greyhounds must be provided with a clean and dry dedicated sleeping area, with flooring to be of fixed construction or concrete. Outdoor greyhound housing must be partially enclosed to provide greyhounds with sheltered sleeping areas that can protect them from the rain and wind.
- 9.2 All greyhounds should be provided with raised wooden sleeping boards, dog houses or trampoline-style beds to insulate them from the floor. Sleeping areas and bedding must be regularly kept clean, hygienic and dry and bedding and blankets should be changed frequently.

10. Hygiene

- 10.1 Greyhound areas must be kept clean so that diseases are controlled and greyhounds are comfortable. Greyhound areas should be left dry after cleaning and be dried with a mop or squeegee.

- 10.2 Cleaning and disinfecting agents should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness. Manufacturer's instructions for the use of cleaning and disinfecting agents must be followed keeping in mind that solutions that are diluted too much may be ineffective solutions that are too concentrated may be toxic.
- 10.3 Urine and faeces should be removed at least once a day from greyhound housing areas and exercise areas.
- 10.4 Housing and exercise areas should be cleaned daily, and disinfected at least once each week, before new puppies or greyhounds are introduced. Kennel enclosures should be disinfected at least once a week with practices in place to minimise odour from kennels. Food preparation and storage areas must be maintained in a hygienic standard.
- 10.5 Urine, faeces and food wastes must be disposed of promptly and hygienically and in accordance with local government requirements. Floors of outdoor greyhound housing areas should be sloped to enable waste and water to run off. External yards should be designed to minimise run off and potential contamination. A collection drain may be provided and fitted with fine mesh wire baskets to trap hair and waste. The baskets should be cleaned daily.
- 10.6 Use of a trade waste service for collection and disposal of wastes is preferred. Waste should not be incinerated on-site.

11. Pest control

- 11.1 Effort must be made to effectively control pests, including flies, fleas, mosquitoes and rodents.
- 11.2 Chemicals used for vermin control must be registered under relevant Commonwealth and NSW agriculture and veterinary chemicals legislation as highlighted on the labels, and used only in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.3 Because greyhounds and humans may be adversely affected by pest control agents, expert advice should be sought before pest control operations are carried out.

12. Nutrition

- 12.1 Greyhounds should be provided with adequate amounts of good quality food and fresh clean drinking water daily to maintain optimal health at all times.
- 12.2 All food should be stored in a secure hygienic area. A variety of foods should be supplied.
- 12.3 Adult greyhounds must be fed daily. Pregnant and lactating greyhounds, pups up to 6 months of age, should be fed twice daily.
- 12.4 Pregnant and lactating greyhounds require approximately twice the amount of food required normally.
- 12.5 Food should be prepared hygienically and served in appropriate containers, i.e. non-chewable and non-spillable bowls. They must be readily accessible, positioned to avoid spillage and contamination by urine or faeces, and must be cleaned daily.
- 12.6 Food should be stored appropriately, with dry food kept in a rodent-free place and fresh meat kept refrigerated.

- 12.7 Uneaten food should be removed and disposed of promptly so that it does not spoil or attract pests.
- 12.8 Fresh water in non-spillable containers must be available at all times.

13. Exercise

- 13.1 Greyhounds must have the opportunity once or twice a day for exercise to:
- allow them to be checked over;
 - allow them to stretch their limbs; and
 - give them contact with humans.
- 13.2 Exercise can be provided by walking greyhounds on a lead for a minimum of 30 minutes once daily or 15 minutes twice daily. Very active, very old or injured greyhounds may require more or less exercise than the above.
- 13.3 If the greyhound is not being raced it should be given an opportunity to be exercised in suitable exercise areas. Measures should be in place to minimise the deterioration of exercise areas to bare earth, i.e. turf, concrete or suitable animal flooring.
- 13.4 When greyhounds are walked on the footpath of busy roads handlers should take extra care to ensure that the greyhounds are safe from escaping into the path of vehicles. A walking machine can be used to assist in exercising greyhounds but should not be seen as a replacement for outdoor walking and environmental stimulation.

14. Health and veterinary care

- 14.1 Before a greyhound is admitted, the following information should be recorded:
- the greyhounds registered name;
 - name, address and telephone number of its owner;
 - expected date of collection by owner;
 - a description of the greyhound including:
 - Sex
 - Breed
 - Microchip
 - Earbrand
 - Colour
 - Age
 - Distinguishing Features
 - Condition and weight
 - all health records including vaccination status and heartworm prevention status;
 - details of medical and dietary requirements; and
 - name and contact telephone number of a veterinary practitioner that normally attends the greyhound.
- 14.2 Each greyhound should be checked at least once daily to monitor its health and comfort. Any changes in health status should be recorded and promptly addressed.

14.3 The person checking the greyhound should note whether each greyhound:

- is eating
- is drinking
- is defecating
- is urinating
- is behaving normally
- is of normal appearance
- is able to move about freely
- has a normal coat.

14.4 Owners of greyhounds must be asked to sign an agreement authorising provision of necessary veterinary treatment. The Trainer should liaise with a veterinary practitioner to provide advice and treatment as required. The veterinary practitioner must be able to attend to any greyhounds in his or her care, and advise on disease prevention measures.

14.5 Immediate veterinary care must be provided for sick or injured greyhounds, to relieve pain, suffering and distress. Veterinary attention must be sought by for any greyhounds showing any of the following conditions:

- runny nose
- repeated sneezing
- coughing
- runny, discharging or inflamed eyes
- inability to stand or walk
- lameness (i.e. disturbance in ability to move)
- apparent pain
- fits or staggering
- extreme lassitude (i.e. lack of energy)
- vomiting
- severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained
- inability to urinate or defecate
- no appetite
- bloating of abdomen
- weight loss
- bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat).

15. Disease prevention and notification

15.1 Greyhounds must be vaccinated in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Rules or as directed by the Commission in consultation with a veterinary practitioner. Vaccination against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and canine cough is required (C5). A current vaccination certificate (certifying that vaccination was completed in the preceding 12 months) must be produced for each greyhound before admission.

15.2 Internal and external parasites must be controlled through routine preventative treatments.

- 15.3 All greyhounds are to be protected from distress or injury caused by other greyhounds and:
- greyhounds known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease should not be admitted to the premises;
 - greyhounds that are suspected or have been diagnosed as having an infectious disease must be isolated in facilities either within the greyhound premises or at a veterinary premises.
- 15.4 Due to the mobile nature of greyhounds, Trainers are required to advise the Commission of any suspected outbreak of an infectious disease and take immediate steps to isolate the suspected greyhound(s) until the infection is formally diagnosed by a veterinary practitioner.
- 15.5 Under Greyhound Racing Rule 84A, the person in charge of a greyhound must keep and retain records on all vaccinations, worming and medical treatments administered to a greyhound from the time the greyhound enters their care until the time the greyhound leaves their care. A person in charge of a greyhound will be required to keep and retain treatment records for a period of two (2) years.
- 15.6 Trainers are required to record treatments for any greyhound in their care from the age of 14 months until its retirement from racing. It is expected that the treatment records are kept at the Trainer's premises and it is not the intention of Stewards to request this record of treatment at a race meeting. If the record is requested outside of a kennel inspection, the Commission will allow sufficient time for the person to produce the record.

16. Transport

- 16.1 Greyhounds may be transported to and from race meetings, training sites, exercise sites, veterinary visits, stud purposes or other appropriate purposes. Trainers must ensure that at all times greyhounds are transported in a way that does not cause injury or stress and in the shortest practicable time.
- 16.2 Any vehicle especially designed or regularly used for transporting greyhounds should:
- protect greyhounds from injury during transportation;
 - have non-slip floors;
 - have enough room for the greyhound to adequately stretch in a standing position and lie down comfortable during transport;
 - provide easy access and operator safety;
 - protect against extremes of temperature;
 - protect against escape of greyhounds; and
 - be easy to clean and disinfect.
- 16.3 Suitable modes of transport for greyhounds include:
- enclosed trailers - insulated and ventilated;
 - appropriately sized cars with owner or handler; and
 - rear compartments of station wagons.

16.4 Modes of transport that are not suitable include:

- wire cages in trailers or utilities which are open to the elements; and
- non-ventilated or non-insulated trailers.

16.5 Before the commencement of each trip, the Trainer must ensure that the mode of transport is in a sanitary condition. It must also be kept in a clean condition for the entire duration of each trip.

16.6 Trainers must ensure that good quality water is provided to each greyhound at least every six hours, or more frequently on hot or humid days. Provision of electrolytes should also be considered in extreme hot or humid conditions.

16.7 A greyhound should not be kept in a mode of transport for more than 6 hours without breaks provided. A break should consist of being let out of the mode of transport for at least ten minutes.

17. Euthanasia

17.1 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.

17.2 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.

17.3 Further information about re-homing requirements and restrictions on euthanasia of greyhounds is available in the Commission's Greyhound Re-homing Policy.

18. Training and educating greyhounds

18.1 Training facilities must be constructed and maintained to minimise risks to greyhounds and persons.

18.2 All equipment used in association with greyhound education or training must be recorded in a facility register. This register should be updated when equipment is maintained or repaired. Examples of equipment may include:

- lures, quarry or baits;
- bullrings;
- slipping tracks;
- walking machines; and
- starting boxes.

18.3 The use of any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal in greyhound education, training or racing is strictly prohibited.

- 18.4 A lure is defined in the Greyhound Racing Rules as any item, natural or man-made, that is used in any way for the purposes of encouraging or enticing a greyhound to pursue, attack or excite it in response. The terms quarry and bait have the same meaning. A Trainer is only permitted to use lures approved by the Commission.
- 18.5 The Commission approves lures that:
- are made up of synthetic materials only; and
 - may contain an audible device.
- 18.6 “Synthetic materials” means non-animal derived materials. As such, the use of any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal (including for example animal-derived wool, fur, feathers or tanned and professionally processed skin) as a lure in greyhound training, education or racing is strictly prohibited.
- 18.7 A Trainer must take reasonable steps to ensure that a greyhound does not pursue or attack any live animal. This includes ensuring that there are no other animals present on the same property where greyhounds are housed.
- 18.8 Keeping of animals that may reasonably be used as a lure for the purpose of training or racing greyhounds on premises where greyhounds are kept is prohibited under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*. Where any animal other than a greyhound is kept at the premises as a domestic pet or for rural or agricultural purposes, the Trainer must apply to the Commission for an exemption order. Further information regarding the prohibition on keeping animals on premises with greyhounds and the process for applying for an exemption order is available on the Commission’s website www.gwic.nsw.gov.au.

19. Consequences of a breach of this policy

- 19.1 A failure to comply with this policy may result in the imposition of a penalty under the Greyhound Racing Rules. The maximum penalty that may be imposed is \$22,000 or suspension, disqualification and/or cancellation of registration.
- 19.2 Registered participants should make themselves familiar with the Greyhound Racing Rules. Trainers in particular should be aware of the Rules specific to all racing matters, including breeding, grading, incapacitations and prohibited substances. Please note that these Rules are amended from time to time. All amendments are undertaken through the co-operation of affiliated greyhound racing bodies as well as Greyhounds Australasia.

20. Definitions

In this policy:

Code means the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training.

Greyhound Racing Rules means the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules as continued by clause 10 of Schedule 4 to the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*.

21. Amendments to, and operation of, this policy

The Commission may amend this policy at any time.

22. Document information

Title:	Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training
Approver:	Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission
Date of Effect:	July 2018
Next Review Date:	Late 2018
File Reference:	
Key Words:	

23. Document history

Version	Date	Reason for Amendment
1.0	11/07/2018	Document published