

July 2019

# PET GREYHOUNDS NOW MUZZLE FREE

In NSW all pet greyhounds were legally required to wear a muzzle in public unless they had completed an approved retraining program.

**From 1 July 2019 this legal requirement no longer applies to pet greyhounds registered on the NSW Pet Registry.**

This is part of the NSW Government's commitment to improving living standards and rehoming rates for greyhounds.

## EFFECTIVE CONTROL

All dog owners must maintain effective control of their animal in public. Just like all breeds of dogs in NSW, greyhounds will still be required to be on a leash while in public at all times, unless they are in a council designated off-leash area. Fines apply for unleashed dogs in public.

Greyhounds should only be let off their lead in off-leash areas once owners are aware of how the dog socialises in different settings.

## OFF-LEASH AREAS

A greyhound will still require a muzzle in an off-leash area if it has not undergone an approved retraining program. Greyhounds that have completed this program will continue to wear identifying green collars, or, alternatively the person in charge of the animal can carry a 'proof of completion' card.

Fines apply for an un-muzzled greyhound in an off-leash area if the animal has not completed an approved retraining program or the dog is not wearing a green collar or the owner is not carrying a 'proof of completion' card.

Green collars and 'proof of completion' cards are provided to greyhound owners once their animal completes an approved training course.

The requirement for muzzling in off-leash areas will be transitional until the socialisation of ex-racing greyhounds is improved as part of the ongoing work of Greyhound Racing NSW and the Greyhound Integrity & Welfare Commission. This includes the development of a new Animal Welfare Code of Practice which will set out socialisation requirements for each stage of a greyhound's life to ensure their suitability to be rehomed.

## **CAUTIOUS APPROACH**

As with all dog breeds in NSW, greyhound owners will continue to be able to muzzle their dogs should they choose to do so.

The Government recommends that owners muzzle their pet greyhound if it is an ex-racing greyhound for eight weeks after registering their animal as a pet. This cautious approach will allow the greyhound to settle into its new environment and the owner to monitor and assess the dog's behaviour.

## **MISBEHAVIOUR**

If a greyhound rushes at, chases or attacks a person or other animal, the same penalties that apply for any breed of dog may apply.

Like any other breed, greyhounds can also be declared dangerous or menacing and, in that case, would no longer be exempt from wearing a muzzle.

## **PROMOTING ANIMAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

These reforms are being implemented in a way that promotes the welfare of greyhounds and other animals as well as community safety.

The changes also deliver on a recommendation by the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel and follow extensive consultation with the industry and the community.

Amendments have been made to the Companion Animals Regulation 2018 to reflect the new arrangements.



## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information about greyhound de-muzzling:

Visit [www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au)

Or

Contact the Office of Local Government Program Delivery Team on

**02 4428 4100** or

[olg@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au)