

# Greyhound Rehoming Policy

<p><b>Purpose</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Policy is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maximise opportunities for rehoming greyhounds that are retired from, or otherwise unsuitable for, racing;</li> <li>• eliminate unnecessary euthanasia of healthy greyhounds; and,</li> <li>• ensure that, where it is necessary to euthanase a greyhound, euthanasia is conducted in a humane manner.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scope</b></p>	<p>This Policy applies to all greyhound racing industry participants registered with the Greyhound Welfare &amp; Integrity Commission (“the Commission”), and to all greyhounds owned or kept by a greyhound racing industry participant.</p> <p>This Policy also applies to greyhound racing industry participants licensed in other jurisdictions and operating in NSW.</p>
<p><b>Related Policies</b></p>	<p><u><a href="#">Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training</a></u></p>
<p><b>Breach</b></p>	<p>A failure to comply with the terms of this Policy may result in disciplinary action under the <i>Greyhound Racing Act 2017</i>.</p>
<p><b>Policy</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Policy principles</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants are responsible for rehoming any greyhounds that they do not wish to retain.</li> <li>• Greyhounds which are retired from, or otherwise unsuitable for, racing should wherever possible have the opportunity to live out their natural life as a companion animal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Preparation for rehoming</b></p>	<p>A greyhound that has ceased racing or training for racing must be provided with a ‘<b>wind down</b>’ period of at least 30 days before being rehomed. During this wind down period, the owner must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the greyhound’s diet is adjusted to suit new levels of exercise;</li> <li>• the greyhound’s exercise is adjusted to levels appropriate for a companion animal;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the greyhound is moved to different housing, either in an outdoor pen or to within a family residence;</li> <li>• the greyhound is walked for at least 20 minutes daily in public, while muzzled and on a lead;</li> <li>• the greyhound is exposed to new environments such as dog parks/shopping areas and interaction with other dogs (not greyhounds);</li> <li>• the greyhound is exposed to different surfaces and a variety of people in a non-training or racing setting;</li> <li>• the greyhound is exposed to daily periods of isolation from other dogs and humans, starting with 30 minutes and gradually increasing to three to four hours in duration.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Monitoring greyhounds in preparation for rehoming</b>	<p>Participants must monitor greyhounds being introduced to new environments, people or animals. If the greyhound shows signs of fear or predatory or aggressive behaviour the interaction must be terminated.</p> <p>Participants must seek advice from a veterinarian or animal behaviourist if the greyhound being prepared for rehoming shows excessive fear, aggressive or predatory behaviours towards people, small dogs and/or other animals.</p>
<b>4. Requirement to desex greyhound</b>	<p>Unless a greyhound is transferred to a rehoming organisation approved by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW), a greyhound rehomed outside the greyhound racing industry (i.e. to a person who is not a greyhound racing industry participant) must be desexed prior to rehoming.</p> <p>Rehoming organisations approved by GRNSW for this purpose are listed on the Commission’s website at:  <a href="https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/integrity/rulesandpolicies/re-homing-policy">https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/integrity/rulesandpolicies/re-homing-policy</a>.</p> <p>Participants may be able to access financial assistance from GRNSW to have their greyhounds desexed through the Owner Assistance Program.</p>
<b>5. Rehoming requirements</b>	<p>A greyhound owner must make genuine attempts to rehome any greyhound that they do not wish to retain. If an owner is unable to rehome the greyhound privately, they must first seek the greyhound’s admission to the Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) program. If the greyhound is not admitted to the GAP program, the owner must then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek to rehome the greyhound through at least one other pet rescue or rehoming organisation; or</li> <li>• seek the greyhound’s admission to the GAP program a second time.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Exceptions to rehoming requirements</b>	<p>The minimum rehoming requirements referred to in clause 5 do not apply in the following circumstances:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where a greyhound has already been rehomed. For example, if a greyhound is rehomed privately, the rehoming requirements have been met and the owner simply needs to provide a completed Retirement Notification form to the Commission; or,</li> <li>• where a greyhound is legally required to be euthanased under a court order, or has been declared a dangerous or menacing dog under section 34 of the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Information to be provided to new owner</b>	<p>Participants rehoming a greyhound as a companion animal must provide the new owner with all relevant information on the greyhound's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• housing;</li> <li>• feeding;</li> <li>• exercise regime;</li> <li>• health;</li> <li>• behaviour; and,</li> <li>• preparation for rehoming.</li> </ul> <p>Participants rehoming a greyhound as a companion animal must provide the new owner with a written statement detailing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any known abnormality (including current or past injury) affecting the greyhound;</li> <li>• any available information about how that abnormality may affect the short and long term health and well-being of the greyhound;</li> <li>• any veterinary treatment the greyhound is receiving or requires; and,</li> <li>• current vaccination certificates relating to the greyhound.</li> </ul> <p>The owner of a greyhound being rehomed as a companion animal must advise the greyhound's new owner of their obligation to register the greyhound as a companion animal in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Companion Animals Act 1998</i> and, for this purpose, direct them to the NSW Pet Registry at <a href="https://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au/#/">https://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au/#/</a>.</p>
<b>8. Restrictions on rehoming</b>	<p>Participants must not transfer a greyhound to a person who is under the age of 18 years.</p> <p>A greyhound owner must not transfer a greyhound in circumstances where the owner knows, or ought to know, or has reason to believe that the greyhound may be euthanased.</p>
<b>9. Euthanasia</b>	<p>Euthanasia of a greyhound must be performed by a veterinarian using humane methods, unless in an emergency as detailed in clause 11 of this Policy.</p>

<p><b>10. Restrictions on euthanasia</b></p>	<p><b>Medical euthanasia</b></p> <p>A greyhound may be euthanased where a veterinarian certifies 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.</p> <p><b>Notification of intent to euthanase a greyhound</b></p> <p>Where a greyhound is not suffering from an intractable condition or injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life, the owner must comply with minimum rehoming standards specified in clause 5 of this Policy before considering euthanasia. If the owner intends to have the greyhound euthanased, they must notify the Commission of this intention at least 10 business days before the greyhound is euthanased, by lodging a completed Intent to Euthanase Greyhound Notification form.</p>
<p><b>11. Euthanasia performed by a person other than a veterinarian in an emergency</b></p>	<p>Euthanasia of a greyhound may be performed by a person who is not a veterinarian only in an emergency where the euthanasia is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• necessary to relieve the animal’s suffering, and</li> <li>• a veterinarian is unable to attend in a timely manner, or transporting the animal to a veterinarian would unreasonably prolong the animal’s suffering, and</li> <li>• only after a veterinarian has been consulted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Notification requirements</b></p>	<p><b>Rehoming</b></p> <p>Where a greyhound is rehomed to a person or organisation which is not an industry participant (including GAP), the relinquishing owner must, within 10 days of the greyhound leaving their care, notify the Commission by lodging a completed Retirement Notification form.</p> <p><b>Euthanasia following unsuccessful attempts to rehome</b></p> <p>Where an owner of a greyhound has complied with the rehoming requirements in clauses 5 and 6, and the owner intends to have the greyhound euthanased, the owner must, at least 10 business days before the greyhound is to be euthanased, notify the Commission of their intention by lodging a completed Intent to Euthanase Greyhound Notification form.</p> <p>If the greyhound is euthanased following the notification period, the owner must also notify the Commission by lodging a completed Euthanasia of Greyhound by Vet Notification form.</p> <p><b>Euthanasia</b></p> <p>Where a greyhound is euthanased by a veterinarian due to illness or injury as per clause 10, the owner must lodge with the Commission a completed Euthanasia of Greyhound Notification by Vet form, within 2 days of the euthanasia being performed.</p> <p><b>Euthanasia performed by a person other than a veterinarian in an emergency</b></p> <p>Where a greyhound is euthanased by someone other than a veterinarian in an emergency situation, the owner must, within 2 days of the euthanasia</p>

	being performed, lodge with the Commission a completed Emergency Euthanasia of Greyhound – Not by Vet Notification form.
<b>Effective Date</b>	1 December 2019
<b>Last amended</b>	16 April 2020
<b>Related forms</b>	GWIC01-01 – Retirement Notification
	GWIC01-02 – Euthanasia of Greyhound by Vet Notification
	GWIC01-03 – Intent to Euthanase Greyhound Notification
	GWIC01-04 – Emergency Euthanasia of Greyhound – Not by Vet Notification