Draft NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice

Proposed Key Standards

The draft NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice (Code) establishes a single set of standards that will improve animal welfare in the NSW greyhound racing industry, and in time ensure the sustainability and longevity of the industry for the future.

Once the new Code is effective any current participants who are required to make changes to property or infrastructure will be allowed a transition period of up to 10 years to comply. Some of the proposed key standards are listed below:

**Kennel sizes**
The draft Code proposes a minimum kennel size of 3m² for an adult greyhound (this is consistent with Victoria, Western Australia and ACT) and 3.5m² for greyhounds registered for breeding. Current participants will have up to 10 years to comply with this requirement. The length of time allowed will depend on the scope of changes required and whether existing facilities or property pose a welfare risk to greyhounds.

**Barking muzzles**
The use of barking muzzles at any time will be prohibited.

**Transport**
The draft Code introduces minimum standards for transporting greyhounds. These refer to the size and temperature of trailers and other transport, and required breaks when travelling long distances.

**Evacuation plan**
Participants who keep greyhounds will be required to have an evacuation plan in place to ensure greyhounds can be removed from a property in the event of an emergency. The Commission will provide participants with a template to assist in the development of this plan.

**Exercise and socialisation requirements**
The draft Code sets minimum standards for exercise, socialisation and enrichment of greyhounds throughout their lives. Participants will be required to prepare a written Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment Plan for their greyhounds. The Commission will provide participants with a template to assist in the development of this plan.

**Preparing greyhounds for rehoming**
The draft Code requires participants to implement a 30-day wind down period after the greyhound finishes racing and prepare them for life as a pet.

**Rehoming standards**
The standards in the draft Code are designed to maximise the rehoming of all greyhounds. These standards are currently required under the Commission’s Greyhound Rehoming Policy.