

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2019

Commission's greyhound tracking program focuses on 2018 cohort

The Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission continues to prioritise the welfare of registered greyhounds through its Tracking of Registered Greyhounds (TORG) Program.

Chief Executive Officer, Judy Lind, said the next few months will see the program focus on the first litters registered with the Commission from 1 July 2018.

"The first cohort of puppies to be part of the TORG activities will be the 539 pups whelped between July and September last year," Ms Lind said.

"We recognise that the litters of pups that were first registered with the Commission will now be well advanced in their rearing, education and training as racing greyhounds, so our enquiries will focus on the progress of these pups in the coming months."

In 2015 the NSW Government committed to implementing whole of life tracking as part of the greyhound industry's reform. Given the Commission's remit under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017 (GRA)*, the TORG program only refers to greyhounds registered under the GRA.

"This program demonstrates the Commission's commitment to prioritising the welfare of greyhounds from the moment they are whelped," Ms Lind said.

On an ongoing basis the program will focus on cohorts of pups whelped within certain time periods with each phase focusing on a different milestone in the pups progression.

"Over the next couple of months custodians can expect a phone call from the Commission to check up on the progress and wellbeing of these dogs. Where necessary, the Commission's inspectors may also schedule an inspection of the location where the greyhound is kept," Ms Lind said.

"This program will allow the Commission to identify any gaps where participants may not have met reporting obligations in relation to their greyhounds.

Commission staff will be able to assist participants who have not yet met their reporting requirements in relation to these pups. To this end participants are reminded of their reporting responsibilities when pups are being transferred to different owners, trainers and kennels. The Commission must be notified within three days of a change of location.

This particular activity is only one component of a broad range of initiatives to ensure compliance by participants and to confirm the welfare and whereabouts of greyhounds.

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