

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Greyhound Rehoming Policy

The Commission has released a new Greyhound Rehoming Policy, which took effect on 1 December 2019.

### What's changed?

The new Greyhound Rehoming Policy introduces a number of new requirements that participants must meet. These requirements relate to:

- Preparing greyhounds for rehoming as a pet
- Ensuring that greyhounds are desexed before being rehomed
- Minimum standards that participants must meet in attempting to rehome greyhounds
- Information that must be provided when rehoming a greyhound
- Restrictions on rehoming to certain people.

The changes are detailed below.

### **Requirements to prepare greyhounds for rehoming**

- Greyhounds must be provided with a 'wind down' period of at least 30 days after they finish racing or training, before they can be rehomed.
- During this period, greyhound owners must ensure that greyhounds are prepared for rehoming as a pet by adjusting the greyhound's diet, exercise or kennelling arrangements, and exposing the greyhound to different people, animals and environments.
- Participants are also required to monitor their greyhounds closely while they are preparing them for rehoming, and seek advice if the greyhound shows signs of fear, distress or aggression.

### **Requirement to desex greyhounds before rehoming**

- Where a greyhound is being rehomed to an organisation or a person outside the greyhound racing industry, the greyhound must be desexed before being rehomed. Participants may be able to access assistance from the GRNSW through its Owner Assistance Scheme to subsidise the cost of desexing.
- This desexing requirement does not apply if the greyhound is retired and retained by its owner, or transferred to another registered participant.

### **Minimum standards that participants must meet in attempting to rehome greyhounds**

Previously, in order to meet the minimum rehoming standards, greyhound owners had to:

- seek the greyhound's admission to the GAP program;
- seek to re-home the greyhound through at least one other pet rescue or re-homing organisation; and

- seek to re-home the greyhound privately, through at least two other unrelated parties, or seek the greyhound's admission to the GAP program a second time.

These minimum standards have changed. If a greyhound owner is unable to rehome a greyhound privately, the owner must now seek the greyhound's admission to the GAP program. If the greyhound is not admitted to GAP, the owner must then:

- seek to rehome it through at least one other pet rescue or rehoming organisation, or
- seek its admission to GAP a second time.

These standards apply only where the owner is unable to rehome the greyhound privately. Once the greyhound is rehomed, the owner has met the minimum rehoming standards.

#### Exceptions to minimum rehoming requirements

Exceptions to minimum rehoming requirements have also changed. Under the current policy, a greyhound owner is not required to meet the rehoming requirements if the greyhound has been certified by a vet as unsuitable for rehoming due to behavioural reasons. This exception will no longer apply.

This means that greyhounds that are behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming must not be euthanased, unless the greyhound is the subject of Court order, or has been declared a dangerous or menacing dog under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

Other exceptions to the minimum rehoming requirements remain unchanged.

#### **Restrictions on rehoming**

The new policy places two formal restrictions on rehoming of greyhounds:

- Greyhounds must be rehomed to competent adults
- A participant must not rehome a greyhound if they know or have reason to believe that the greyhound will be euthanased by the new owner.

#### **Information that must be provided when rehoming a greyhound**

The new Policy requires participants who are rehoming a greyhound to provide information to the new owner.

- Participants must advise the new owner with all relevant information about the greyhound's diet, exercise routine, housing, health, behaviour, and preparation for rehoming.
- Participants rehoming a greyhound must also provide the new owner with a written statement detailing:
  - Any known abnormality (including any injury) affecting the greyhound
  - Any available information about how the abnormality may affect the greyhound,
  - Any veterinary treatment the greyhound is receiving or requires, and
  - Current vaccination certificates relating to the greyhound.



- Participants rehoming the greyhound to a non-participant must also advise the new owner of their obligation to register the greyhound on the NSW Pet Registry.
- The Commission has prepared a template to assist greyhound owners in providing this information to new owners.

### **When can a greyhound be euthanased?**

- A greyhound may be euthanased where a veterinarian certifies that it is suffering from an intractable injury or condition 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.
- Where a greyhound is not suffering from an intractable injury or condition, the owner must comply with minimum rehoming standards before considering euthanasia. If the owner has complied with these standards but has been unable to rehome the greyhound and intends to have the greyhound euthanased, they must notify the Commission of their intention by submitting a completed Intent to Euthanase Greyhound Notification Form.
- Any euthanasia of a greyhound must be performed by a veterinarian using humane methods. Euthanasia may be performed by a person other than a veterinarian only where the euthanasia is:
  - necessary to relieve the animal's immediate suffering, and
  - 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
  - only after a veterinarian has been consulted.

### **Notification requirements**

Participants are required to notify the Commission when a greyhound is sold, transferred, rehomed, or euthanased. These notification requirements have not changed, but the Commission has developed new forms. All notification forms are available on the Commission's website.

### **Why has the Policy changed?**

The purpose of the Greyhound Rehoming Policy is to maximise rehoming of greyhounds that are retired from racing, and eliminate unnecessary euthanasia of greyhounds. The amendments to the Policy are intended to ensure that greyhounds have the best possible chance of being rehomed successfully.

### **What happens if I don't comply with the requirements?**

The Greyhound Rehoming Policy is an official policy of the Commission. Rule 86 (ag) of the Rules of Racing makes failure to comply with an official policy of the controlling body an offence. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Greyhound Rehoming Policy may therefore result in disciplinary action.

### **When will the new Policy come into effect?**

The new Policy will come into effect on 1 December 2019.