

# Swabbing Policy

<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this Policy is to protect greyhound welfare and racing integrity by preventing the use of prohibited substances in greyhound racing.
<b>Scope</b>	<p>This Policy applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all greyhound racing industry participants registered with the Commission;</li> <li>any greyhound owned or kept by a registered greyhound racing industry participant; and,</li> <li>any greyhound nominated to compete in an event or trial in NSW.</li> </ul>
<b>Related Policies</b>	Greyhound Racing Rules
<b>Definition</b>	In this document “testing” or “swabbing” means the collection of a biological sample from a registered greyhound for the purpose of detecting the presence of a prohibited substance as defined in the Greyhound Racing Rules.
<b>Breach</b>	A failure to comply with this Policy may result in disciplinary action.
<b>Policy</b>	
<b>1. Authority to conduct swabbing activities</b>	<p>The Commission’s functions are set out in the <i>Greyhound Racing Act 2017</i> and include the control, supervision and regulation of greyhound racing in NSW. The Commission also has the functions of a controlling body under the Greyhound Racing Rules.</p> <p>All testing (also known as “swabbing”) activity is carried out by the Commission and other persons authorised by the Commission for the purpose of detecting and inquiring into the use of prohibited substances in the greyhound racing industry.</p> <p>The Greyhound Racing Rules provide for the Commission to carry out such tests as it deems necessary in relation to a greyhound that has been nominated for, or competed in, a race or trial. The Commission may also conduct out-of-competition testing.</p> <p>The Commission may collect samples of urine, blood, excreta, saliva and/or hair. Most samples collected are of urine, but testing activity may include other</p>

	<p>samples where particular risks are present or where a urine sample cannot be collected.</p>
<p><b>2. Responsibilities of staff in relation to testing</b></p>	<p>The Commission may authorise various staff members to conduct testing activities and may also engage third parties such as contractors to conduct testing.</p> <p>Commission staff with responsibilities for testing activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewards</li> <li>• Veterinarians</li> <li>• Inspectors and Investigators</li> <li>• Sample Collection Officials</li> </ul> <p>Sample Collection Officers (or “Swabbies”) may also be employed by greyhound racing clubs. Sample Collection Officers employed by clubs are subject to the direction of Commission Stewards.</p> <p>Commission staff and other authorised persons who conduct swabbing have an obligation to act in the interests of greyhounds and the industry as a whole. Industry participants, stakeholders and the broader community have a right to expect that swabbing is conducted with efficiency, fairness, transparency, impartiality and integrity.</p> <p>Participants registered as trainers, that are currently active must not be employed as sample collection officials. Currently active trainers may be employed as Race Officials and perform other official functions at race meetings but must not collect samples for testing. “Currently active” is defined as a registered trainer who has presented a greyhound to race within the previous two years.</p> <p>Commission staff must comply with the Commission's Code of Ethics and Conduct at all times and must perform their testing responsibilities diligently, impartially, conscientiously, and to the best of their ability.</p> <p>Commission staff and other persons authorised to conduct swabbing should recognise the potential for conflicts of interest and declare any actual or potential conflict of interest that may arise in swabbing. In most cases, this will mean advising your manager that you may have a conflict of interest in relation to a greyhound, and seeking their advice about how to manage the conflict (e.g. by not testing a particular greyhound).</p> <p>Commission staff and other authorised persons must not conduct any testing activity in circumstances where they are aware of the potential for any real or perceived conflict of interest unless the interest is declared.</p>
<p><b>3. Operational testing activity</b></p>	<p>The Commission conducts several different types of testing, based on the</p>

	<p>reason for testing a greyhound. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In competition testing (either pre-race or post-race)</li> <li>• Targeted testing</li> <li>• Out of competition testing</li> <li>• Random testing</li> <li>• Elective testing</li> </ul>
<b>4. In competition testing</b>	<p>Greyhounds may be selected for in-competition testing based on a range of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where the greyhound wins a major event;</li> <li>• Where the greyhound competes in a semi-final or group event;</li> <li>• Where the greyhound competes in another event in which significant prize money is at stake;</li> <li>• Where the greyhound shows inconsistent performance;</li> <li>• Where the greyhound achieves a significant performance milestone, such as breaking a track record;</li> <li>• A greyhound presents other risk factors as identified by Stewards.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Mandatory testing</b>	<p>The Commission conducts the following mandatory swabbing activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All winners of Group 3 or higher events.</li> <li>• All winners of events with a total prize money pool of \$10,000 or more.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Targeted testing</b>	<p>The Commission conducts targeted testing activity at its discretion. Selection of greyhounds for targeted testing is based on intelligence gathered by the Commission and is designed to protect the integrity of racing.</p> <p>In exercising its discretion to conduct targeted swabbing activity, the Commission and its employees have regard to the purpose of this Policy.</p>
<b>7. Out of competition testing</b>	<p>The Commission may conduct testing out of competition, during periods in which greyhounds are being trained or being spelled. The purpose of out-of-competition testing is to protect the integrity of racing and the welfare of greyhounds.</p> <p>Greyhounds are selected for out-of-competition testing at the discretion of the Commission.</p>
<b>8. Random testing</b>	<p>Random testing activity is important to protect racing integrity and deter industry participants from using prohibited substances. Random testing is conducted to ensure that every greyhound that competes in an event has a chance of being selected for testing. The Commission will conduct random testing at both TAB and non-TAB venues.</p>

	<p>The Commission seeks to ensure that random testing is performed in an impartial and transparent manner. Greyhounds are selected for testing using a random number generator, which uses an electronic algorithm to select race and box numbers. This process is auditable, to ensure that selection of greyhounds is based entirely on chance, and no bias is involved. Commission staff play no part in the selection of greyhounds for random testing.</p> <p>Stewards are not permitted to communicate information about random testing to participants before a meeting. After a meeting, the name of any greyhound selected for random testing is published in the Stewards' report. Where a selected greyhound is not tested, Stewards will provide a report to the Commission as to why testing was not carried out.</p>
<b>9. Elective testing</b>	<p>The Commission offers elective testing at the request of greyhound owners and trainers. Certain conditions apply to elective testing, and these are detailed in Annexure A to this Policy.</p>
<b>10. Autopsy testing</b>	<p>The Greyhound Racing Rules provide for the Commission to carry out tests in the event that a greyhound dies.</p> <p>The Commission may conduct autopsy testing activities at the discretion of Stewards and On-Track Veterinarians. In exercising their discretion to conduct autopsy testing, Commission staff have regard to the purpose of this Policy.</p>
<b>11. Approved testing laboratory</b>	<p>The Greyhound Racing Rules require that testing of samples must be performed by an approved laboratory. The Commission engages an approved testing laboratory to undertake the testing of samples and provide advice on the collection of samples.</p> <p>An approved laboratory must be accredited with the National Association of Testing Authorities. In order to be accredited, a laboratory must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be independent;</li> <li>• have appropriate equipment to carry out testing and store samples;</li> <li>• have adequate protocols in place to ensure the integrity of samples and testing processes; and</li> <li>• allow only suitably qualified personnel may undertake or supervise testing activities.</li> </ul>
<b>12. Collection of samples</b>	<p>The collection of samples will be carried out in accordance with guidelines provided by the testing laboratory engaged by the Commission. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the integrity of samples.</p> <p>Commission staff and other authorised persons conducting testing/swabbing activities are required to follow these guidelines and any internal Commission procedures in the collection, storage, and despatch of samples.</p> <p>The Commission will ensure that a participant in charge of a greyhound that is selected for testing is provided with an opportunity to have a witness present during the collection of the sample. The purpose of this is to ensure</p>

	transparency in the process of collecting samples.
<b>13. Notifying participants of test results</b>	<p>Registered participants can obtain advice about the outcome of a test by contacting the Commission. Where the result of a test is positive for a prohibited substance, the testing laboratory will advise the Commission and forward the sample to another approved laboratory for confirmatory testing.</p> <p>The Commission will then notify the participant in writing that testing has detected an irregularity in the sample taken from the greyhound. If the finding is confirmed in the second test, the Commission will consider taking disciplinary action in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Rules and the participant will be notified in writing.</p> <p>If the second test does not confirm the presence of a prohibited substance, no disciplinary action will be taken.</p> <p>Any decisions in relation to disciplinary action against a participant are published on the Commission's website.</p> <p>Where a participant elects to have their greyhound tested (elective testing), the Commission will notify the participant of the test result.</p>
<b>14. Storage of samples for future testing</b>	<p>After initial testing, samples collected from greyhounds (other than samples collected at the request of a participant) may be frozen and stored for a period of up to 10 years. These samples may be re-submitted for re-testing at any time. This does not apply to samples taken as part of elective swabbing, which are disposed of within one week of results being reported.</p>
<b>Effective Date</b>	1 July 2018
<b>Last amended</b>	1 August 2025

**ELECTIVE SWABBING CRITERIA**

Out of competition testing of samples collected from greyhounds prior to racing is a service offered to the NSW greyhound racing industry to help trainers determine the suitability of a greyhound for competition.

This service is offered under the following conditions:

The service will test samples:

- For the presence of long acting veterinary therapeutic drugs (with correspondingly long period of detectability) such as anabolic steroids and corticosteroids, and procaine, or
- For the presence of permanently banned and prohibited substances where the recent treatment history and circumstances of a newly acquired greyhound are not known.
- Arrangements for elective testing can only be made through the Commission and on the approval of the Commission's Stewards.
- The Stewards will arrange for a suitable person to identify the greyhound, collect the sample and deliver it to the testing laboratory
- All elective testing will be carried out in accordance with the Commission's Swabbing Policy and follow the Commission's established procedures for the collection, transport and testing of samples.
- Elective testing will not be approved or carried out until the relevant fee is paid.
- Until the results of the sample are received, the greyhound must not be entered into any event.
- The results will be provided by the Commission and cannot be obtained directly from the testing laboratory.
- Time constraints may mean that a confirmation test is not attempted.
- The results of non-race day testing do not absolve trainers and owners of their liability in the event of a positive result arising from samples taken at any race meeting.
- Trainers and owners are advised that a negative result following a particular treatment may not mean that such a result would be obtained in similar circumstances with the same or other greyhounds, and trainers and owners should not rely solely on the outcome of a single test, as the date of administration, route of administration and the advice of the treating veterinarian also need to be taken into account.
- Samples will be disposed of within one week of the results being reported.
- Stewards will retain information regarding positive swab results for intelligence and verification purposes.