



FACT SHEET

Animal exemption orders



WHY DO I NEED AN EXEMPTION ORDER?

Section 41 (1) of the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 states that 'a person must not, on any premises at or on which greyhounds are kept, trialled, trained or raced, keep any animal that is reasonably capable of being used as a lure in connection with the trialling, training or racing of greyhounds'. An 'animal' is defined in the Act and includes the skin or carcass of an animal.

Section 41 (2) states that 'the Commission may make an order (an exemption order) authorising the person to keep an animal of the kind specified in the order'.

The Greyhound Racing Rules include similar requirements. R159 makes it an offence to bring an animal that is reasonably capable of being used as a lure onto a property where greyhounds are kept, trialled, trained or raced. Participants who keep greyhounds are prohibited from keeping animals that may be used as a lure.

However, participants may apply to the Commission for an exemption that allows them to keep such animals in certain circumstances. This is called an 'Animal Exemption Order'.

HOW DO I APPLY?

You can find the form on the eTrac digital portal. Participants are asked what animals they keep at their premises as part of the application process.

The application for an exemption order is assessed as part of your application to register as a participant, and you will be advised of the outcome as part of your registration.



UPDATING EXEMPTION ORDERS

If your circumstances have changed – that is, the animals that you keep have changed – you can complete a separate Animal Declaration Form to update the information.

It is advisable to update your details regularly so that the Commission has accurate information about all the animals that you keep.

WHAT ANIMALS CAN I KEEP?

An exemption order can specify any kind or number of animals except for possums or rabbits.

The Act does not allow the Commission to grant an exemption order for a rabbit or possum. This means that participants cannot keep these animals at all.

BUT THERE ARE NATIVE ANIMALS ON MY PROPERTY

An exemption order is not required for animals that are wild, such as kangaroos, wallabies, possums or snakes. An exemption order is only required if you keep the animal.

'Keeping' is defined as having possession or control of the animal. For example, if a native animal is in an enclosure that it cannot escape or relies on you for food, you would be considered to be keeping it.

Native or feral animals that come and go through your property are not under your control, so you are not 'keeping' them even if you are aware that they may be there.

WHAT COUNTS AS AN ANIMAL?

Participants need to apply for an exemption order for any animal that could be used as a lure, such as cats, small dogs, guinea pigs, ferrets or chickens.



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You also need to apply for an exemption order for any animal of which a body part could be used as a lure.

It also includes fowl and birds such as ducks or pigeons, but does not include fish or shellfish.

You do not need to apply for an exemption order for the following larger animal:

- Animal skin used for interior home decoration i.e. cushions, rugs.
- Clothing or items made from animal products i.e. jumpers, jackets, shoes, handbags.
- Meat available for human consumption.
- Commercially available pet food.
- Animal bones.

Though an exemption order is not required, these items must be used only for the purpose they were intended and not as a lure. If they are used for any other purpose at a property where a greyhound is kept, trialled, trained or race, this may constitute an offence.

WILL MY APPLICATION FOR AN EXEMPTION BE APPROVED?

When the Commission receives applications for exemptions, it considers:

- The number of animals being kept.
- The type of animals.
- The purpose for which the animals are kept.
- How the animals are housed.
- Greyhounds that you have on your property.
- Greyhound training facilities on your property.

WHAT IF MY APPLICATION IS NOT APPROVED?

Most applications for an exemption order are approved.

If your application is not approved, you can request a review of the decision.

