

NSW Greyhound Welfare

Code of Practice

January 2026



Publications details

NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice

Published by the NSW Government, January 2026. First published 1 January 2021.

Disclaimer

This publication may contain information about the regulation and enforcement of laws relating to greyhounds in NSW. It may include some obligations under legislation that the Commission administers. This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular situations or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You can seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

Copyright information

Except for the NSW Government logo, this copyright work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 3.0 Australia License. To view a copy of this licence, visit www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/au

You are free to copy, communicate and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, as long as you attribute the work to the NSW Government and abide by the other licence terms.

For more information on the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice visit www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/code-of-practice



Contents

Foreword	2
-----------------	----------

Part 1: Introduction	3
-----------------------------	----------

Part 2: Nutrition and Hydration	5
OBJECTIVE	5
STANDARDS	5

Part 3: Health and Wellbeing	6
OBJECTIVE	6
STANDARDS	6

Part 4: Greyhound Breeding	8
OBJECTIVE	8
STANDARDS	8

Part 5: Housing and Environment	10
OBJECTIVE	10
STANDARDS	10

Part 6: Transporting Greyhounds	13
OBJECTIVE	13
STANDARDS	13

Part 7: Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment	14
OBJECTIVE	14
STANDARDS	14

Part 8: Training, Trialling and Racing	16
OBJECTIVE	16
STANDARDS	16

Part 9: Rehoming Greyhounds as Companion Animals	17
OBJECTIVE	17
STANDARDS	17

10: Definitions	18
------------------------	-----------

Foreword



The NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice demonstrates the greyhound racing industry's commitment to improving the welfare of greyhounds across the state. In doing so, it signals to the broader community the collective resolve of the greyhound racing industry to establish and maintain the highest standards of welfare and care in Australia.

The Code exemplifies some of the very best attributes and behaviours of participants operating in the industry and ensures that all participants, both those who are currently active and those entering into it, are accountable for meeting the standards set by this Code.

This Code signifies a turning point in the industry's history. In embracing the Code, participants are setting the entire industry on a path to renewed faith, support and positive recognition from the broader community. In taking this step, the industry is demonstrating its commitment to the welfare of the animals that are at its heart, enabling this long-standing sport, its communities and individual members to thrive into the future.

The Code also represents the Berejiklian Government's commitment to assisting the greyhound racing industry, which is so important to the lives of so many individuals and communities across New South Wales, achieve long-term prosperity and sustainability by setting standards that reflect public expectations.

On behalf of the Government and Minister Marshall, I would like to thank all those participants and industry stakeholders who were involved in the development of the Code and who made submissions throughout the consultation process, particularly the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission, the Greyhound Breeders Owners & Trainers Association, Greyhound Racing NSW, RSPCA NSW, the Department of Primary Industries and the Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee.

We look forward to working with the industry to ensure the improved ongoing welfare of greyhounds, helping to support the sustainability and longevity of greyhound racing across New South Wales.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Anderson'.

The Hon Kevin Anderson, MP
Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation

Part 1: Introduction

1.1 Name of the Code

This Code is to be known as the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice.

1.2 Objectives of the Code

The objectives of this Code are to protect the welfare and promote the wellbeing of greyhounds kept by greyhound racing industry participants in NSW and to provide a clear set of standards that are recognised and accepted by the industry and its participants.

1.3 Purpose of the Code

This Code is made under section 36 of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* ("the Act").

Each Part of the Code is structured to provide an objective specifying the intended greyhound welfare outcomes the Part seeks to achieve, and a series of enforceable standards. These standards are designed to provide certainty and clarity for participants and the Commission in regard to the requirements of industry participants as part of the regulation of the greyhound industry.

Other standards which relate to operation of the greyhound industry are stipulated in the Greyhound Racing Rules and policies of the Commission. This Code is to be read in conjunction with those Rules. Section 38 of the Act provides that in the event of any inconsistency between this Code and the Greyhound Racing Rules, this Code prevails.

The standards in this Code are intended to promote the welfare of greyhounds and are consistent with the objects of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA).

The standards in this Code have also been developed with reference to the five domains of animal welfare, which provide a recognised framework for assessing an animal's wellbeing.

1.4 Application of the Code

This Code applies to all participants in the NSW greyhound industry and greyhounds kept by them, regardless of whether or not the greyhound is being kept for the purpose of racing.

This includes greyhounds that are being kept or have been retained by participants as a breeding dog or pet. However, as not all clauses within the code apply to retired greyhounds that are retained by participants as pets, those standards within the Code that do apply to retired greyhounds are identified with an **(R)**.

The Code does not apply to greyhounds kept by people who are not participants of the greyhound racing industry. For example, if a registered greyhound is retired and rehomed with a new owner who is not a greyhound racing industry participant, it does not need to be registered with the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (**the Commission**). Such greyhounds are subject to the requirements of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, unless exempt from the provisions of that legislation.

1.5 Commencement of the Code

This version of the code will commence on 1 January 2026.

1.6 Enforcement of the Code

Persons appointed as Inspectors under the Act will enforce the Standards contained in the Code on behalf of the Commission.

1.6.1 Minimum space requirements for greyhound housing areas (5.9)

Excluding circumstances set out by clause 1.6.2, all existing greyhound housing areas will be deemed to comply with standard 5.9 until 31 December 2030.

The construction of any new greyhound housing areas, following the commencement of this Code, will need to comply with Standard 5.9.

1.6.2 Inadequate greyhound housing area

The deeming provision set out in clause 1.6.1 will **not** apply in circumstances where the Commission determines that greyhound housing areas represent a significant welfare or safety risk to greyhounds.

A decision to invoke this clause by the Commission will be made by the Chief Executive Officer and at least one Commissioner.

Part 1: Introduction

1.6.3 Extension of deeming provision

Prior to the expiry of the period set out within clause 1.6.1, participants who have demonstrated a commitment to high welfare standards and:

- a) intend to leave the industry within the following five years; or
- b) have made investment in greyhound housing areas after 1 January 2017 that continue to represent quality housing amenity,

will be able to apply to the Commission for an extension of the deeming provision set out in 1.6.1 for a further period of up to five years.

Applications for an extension of the deeming provision beyond 31 December 2035 will not be permitted. All greyhound housing areas will need to be compliant with standard 5.9 from 1 January 2036.

1.6.4 Appeal of Commission Decisions

Any decision by the Commission under clauses 1.6.2 or 1.6.3 may be appealed to the NSW Racing Appeals Tribunal.

1.7 Breaches of the Code

In circumstances where a participant is found to be in breach of a Standard or Standards within the code, the Commission may take disciplinary action as provided for in section 58 of the Act. Section 59 details the forms of disciplinary action the Commission may take, which includes disciplinary action under the Rules of Racing, such as imposing a fine or disqualification of a participant.

Section 96 of the Act also allows for the Commission to issue a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) for a breach of the Act, which includes the offence provisions specified within this Code.

The action the Commission takes against a participant in response to a breach of a Standard or Standards in this Code will be

determined in accordance with the Commission's *Compliance & Enforcement Explanatory Guide*, which allows for graded responses according to the nature and seriousness of the breach.

1.8 Offence provisions

Section 39 of the Act provides for certain provisions of the Code to be identified as offence provisions. **Only** standards 9.4 and 9.5 of this Code, relating to euthanasia of greyhounds, are identified as "offence provisions" for the purposes of section 39 of the Act.

Section 39 provides an additional mechanism through which these Standards may be enforced, as the Commission may elect to issue a Penalty Infringement Notice or prosecute a person who contravenes one or more of the Standards identified as offence provisions.

1.9 Definitions

Terms used in the Code are included in the Definitions section at the end of this document. Defined terms appear in bold when they first appear in the Standards.



Part 2: Nutrition and Hydration

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that every greyhound receives the food and water needed for optimal development, health and wellbeing.

STANDARDS

Food

- 2.1 All **greyhounds** must be fed at least once daily. Food must be provided in sufficient quantity and nutritional quality. Food must be canine-appropriate and meet the daily requirements for the greyhound's age, size, condition, and level of activity. **R.**
- 2.2 Unless directed otherwise by a **veterinarian**, greyhounds must be provided with raw meaty bones and/or chew toys to promote dental health. **R.**
- 2.3 Food must not be allowed to become rancid, decayed or insect infested. Uneaten food must be disposed of before a fresh meal is provided. **R.**
- 2.4 Food fed to greyhounds must not contain raw offal. **R.**
- 2.5 **Participants** must ensure they have adequate food available on site to meet the needs of the greyhounds in the event of an emergency such as illness or accident. **R.**

Cleaning and food storage

- 2.6 Food containers and food preparation areas must be kept clean. **R.**
- 2.7 Food must be stored in such a way as to prevent spoilage or contamination. **R.**

Water

- 2.8 Fresh, clean drinking water must be available to greyhounds at all times. **R.**
- 2.9 **Puppies** must be provided with access to fresh clean drinking water from three weeks of age.
- 2.10 Water containers must be safe for puppies and greyhounds, non-spillable, and hold sufficient water. **R.**
- 2.11 Water containers must be kept clean. **R.**

Note: Participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply with those Standards marked with an “R” in relation to those greyhounds.

Part 3: Health and Wellbeing

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that every greyhound enjoys optimal health and wellbeing.

STANDARDS

Monitoring greyhound health

- 3.1 Participants must inspect greyhounds in their care at least twice a day. **R.**

Veterinary care

- 3.2 Participants must ensure that they have reliable access to a veterinarian (or veterinarians) capable of providing 24-hour **veterinary advice** in regard to all greyhounds in the participant's care.
- 3.3 **Veterinary treatment** must be provided to a greyhound or puppy where necessary. **R.**
- 3.4 Any directions of a veterinarian in relation to treatment of pain, injury, ill health, distress or post-surgical care must be followed. **R.**

Sclerosing agents

- 3.5 **Sclerosing agents** must not be administered to greyhounds. **R.**

Storage, administration and treatment records

- 3.6 Participants must keep a written treatment record for each greyhound or puppy in their care that includes:
- vaccination records and matching vaccination certificates; **R**
 - internal and external parasite control (e.g. fleas, ticks or heartworm); **R**
 - any veterinary treatment administered to the greyhound, including the name of the veterinarian prescribing the treatment and the name and signature of the veterinarian or other person administering the treatment. **R.**
- 3.7 When a greyhound is sold, **rehomed**, or otherwise **transferred** to a different person, the participant transferring the greyhound must supply the treatment record relating to the greyhound to the new custodian. **R.**
- 3.8 Any medications prescribed by a veterinarian for a greyhound must be administered in accordance with veterinary directions. **R.**
- 3.9 Medications, treatments, or supplements must be labelled clearly and kept in their original container or packaging.
- 3.10 All expired medications, supplements and injectable substances must be disposed of according to relevant legislative requirements.

Vaccinations

- 3.11 Unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian, puppies must not be vaccinated before four weeks of age.
- 3.12 Participants must ensure that all greyhounds in their care are vaccinated from the age of 6–8 weeks, and that vaccinations are kept up to date. **R.**
- 3.13 Unless a veterinarian has provided contrary advice in writing, greyhounds must be vaccinated against:
- Distemper virus **R**
 - Parvovirus **R**
 - Canine Adenovirus **R**
 - Parainfluenza virus **R**
 - Bordetella bronchiseptica. **R.**

Worming and parasite management

- 3.14 Participants must administer an effective internal and external parasite control program (e.g. gastrointestinal worm, heartworm, ear mites, fleas and ticks) which is age appropriate, to all greyhounds in their care. **R.**
- 3.15 Worming and parasite treatment must be used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or at the direction of a Veterinarian. **R.**

Dental health

- 3.16 Participants must **monitor** the dental health of all greyhounds in their care, and seek veterinary treatment if required. **R.**

Grooming

- 3.17 Participants must ensure that the greyhounds in their care are maintained in a good and clean condition. **R.**
- 3.18 Participants must check the toenails of all greyhounds in their care regularly and if necessary, trim them to prevent overgrowth. **R.**

Note: Participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply only with those Standards marked “**R**” in relation to those greyhounds.

Part 4: Greyhound Breeding

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that greyhounds are bred in a safe and responsible manner, resulting in healthy greyhounds and puppies.

STANDARDS

Suitability for breeding

- 4.1 Participants must obtain from a veterinarian a written certification that a greyhound is fit to breed before the greyhound may be registered for breeding.
- 4.2 Participants must not allow breeding between greyhounds that are closely related to each other, such as father-daughter, mother-son, or brother-sister. Second degree matings (for example, grandfather and granddaughter) are not recommended without appropriate prior expert advice.
- 4.3 A greyhound must not be involved in breeding if it has been diagnosed by a veterinarian as having a **heritable disease or defect**, or there is a reason to believe that the greyhound has a heritable disease or defect.
- 4.4 Where a greyhound is suspected of having a heritable disease or defect, the participant must seek veterinary advice to:
 - diagnose the disease or defect and provide any required treatment;
 - protect the on-going welfare of the affected greyhound;
 - prevent further propagation of the heritable disease or defect in the greyhound population.

- 4.5 Neither male nor female greyhounds are to be registered for breeding before they are at least 18 months of age.
- 4.6 A female greyhound must not be caused or allowed to have more than two **litters** in any 18-month period.
- 4.7 A female greyhound must not be caused or allowed to have more than three litters, without the prior approval of the Commission.

Natural mating

- 4.8 Natural **mating** pairs must be physically separated from other greyhounds.
- 4.9 If the female greyhound is being unduly harassed by the male greyhound, they must be separated immediately.
- 4.10 A male greyhound must not be put with more than one female at any one time for the purpose of natural mating.
- 4.11 After mating, both greyhounds must be physically separated, assessed for signs of injury, and veterinary treatment provided if necessary.
- 4.12 **Dog breeding stands** must not be used in mating.

Artificial insemination

- 4.13 **Artificial insemination** must only be conducted by a veterinarian or a registered artificial insemination technician.

Whelping

- 4.14 A whelping box or other suitable whelping area must be available to a whelping greyhound at least seven days before her estimated whelping date. The whelping box or other suitable whelping area must be clean, safe, quiet, and separated from other greyhounds.
- 4.15 After whelping is complete, the **dam** and her puppies must be closely monitored to ensure the puppies are feeding normally and maternal acceptance has been firmly established.
- 4.16 The whelping area must be cleaned and disinfected within 24 hours of the completion of whelping.

Lactating

- 4.17 Dams must be examined twice a day for mastitis during the first two weeks post-whelp, and veterinary treatment sought where mastitis is present.
- 4.18 Participants must seek veterinary advice in relation to any puppies which are not feeding properly, or do not gain weight.

Puppies

- 4.19 Unless directed by a veterinarian, puppies must not be sold, leased or otherwise transferred before eight weeks of age.

Note: Participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply only with those standards marked “R” in relation to those greyhounds.



Part 5: Housing and Environment

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that every greyhound is provided with housing that provides adequate space, shelter and comfort, having regard to the greyhound's age, size, and behavioural needs.

STANDARDS

Construction of housing pens, kennels and yards

- 5.1 All **enclosures** used to keep greyhounds must provide at least enough space for each greyhound to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about. **R.**
- 5.2 Greyhounds must be securely confined to prevent their escape from the property at which they are kept, and prevent unauthorised persons gaining access to the greyhounds. Unless the greyhound is under supervision, there must be at least two barriers between a greyhound and escape from the property at all times. **R.**
- 5.3 All greyhound enclosures, housing and sleeping areas must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that is safe and provides for the well-being of greyhounds. **R.**
- 5.4 Any security measures installed in or around **greyhound housing areas** must not prevent easy access to greyhounds, or efficient removal of greyhounds in the event of an emergency. **R.**
- 5.5 Vehicles, caravans, trailers, portable crates and the crawl space under any dwelling must not be used as long-term housing for greyhounds.

Indoor housing

- 5.6 All indoor greyhound housing areas must have adequate ventilation. **R.**
- 5.7 Where greyhounds are housed in an enclosed environment in which air conditioning and/or fans provide the only form of air movement:
 - temperature must be maintained at between 16C and 26C;
 - effective air cleaning and filtration must be in place; and
 - a power back-up and effective alarm system must be installed and available for use in the event of power failures or breakdown.
- 5.8 Where greyhounds are housed indoors, light cycles must be as close as possible to natural conditions.

Greyhound housing area space requirements

- 5.9 Unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian, greyhound housing areas must meet the minimum space requirements outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Minimum space requirements for greyhound housing areas

Minimum requirements for one greyhound			
Enclosure type	Minimum width	Minimum height	Total area
Pen (includes kennel)	1.2 metres	1.8 metres	3.5m ²
Minimum requirements for two greyhounds			
Pen (includes kennel)	2.4 metres	1.8 metres	7m ²
Mating Greyhounds Pen	3 metres	1.8 metres	15m ²
Minimum requirements for whelping greyhounds			
Whelping box or area for dam and litter of pups aged up to 4 weeks	A whelping box or other area used for whelping must be large enough for the dam to lie comfortably while whelping and accommodate the dam and her puppies for the first four weeks after whelping.		
Whelping Greyhounds Pen (includes kennel)	For a dam and litter of puppies aged over 4 weeks.		15m²
Whelping greyhounds housing pen (includes kennel)	One dam and her litter of pups aged over 8 weeks require an additional 15m ² of space.		30m²

Housing and Environment

- 5.10 Greyhound housing areas must provide greyhounds adequate protection against extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, humidity, dampness, persistent loud noises, light pollution, noxious odours and draughts. **R.**
- 5.11 While in outdoor yards and other enclosures, greyhounds must have access to shelter from rain, sun and extreme temperatures. **R.**

Sleeping areas

- 5.12 Areas where greyhounds sleep must:
- include a raised bed or wooden pallet, which is large enough for the greyhound to lay down completely stretched out on;
 - be equipped with **bedding** that is warm, soft and dry; and made of materials that are safe for greyhounds and puppies; and,
 - afford each greyhound privacy from other greyhounds while sleeping.

Tethering

- 5.13 Greyhounds must be supervised while **tethered**. **R.**
- 5.14 Greyhounds must not be tethered for more than two hours per day. **R.**

Housing greyhounds for breeding and whelping

- 5.15 No female greyhound which is near or in season is to be housed with a male greyhound six months of age or older that has not been desexed. **R.**
- 5.16 Where used, a **whelping box** must be large enough for the dam to lie comfortably while whelping and to accommodate the dam and her puppies for the first four weeks after whelping.

Part 5: Housing and Environment

- 5.17 Whelping boxes must have sides that are high enough to allow the dam to exit readily but also prevent puppies under four weeks of age from falling out.
- 5.18 A pen housing a whelping greyhound must contain a fully screened bedding area to provide physical separation from other greyhounds and provide the dam with access to an area where her puppies cannot reach her.
- 5.19 Puppies from a litter must be actively monitored when housed together and if fighting, bullying or other adverse welfare outcomes are identified, they must be separated.

Cleanliness and hygiene

- 5.20 Greyhound housing areas and bedding must be maintained in a clean, hygienic and safe condition at all times. **R.**
- 5.21 Pens and kennels must be disinfected using a safe and effective **disinfectant** no less than four times per year, as well as:
- after an outbreak of an infectious disease **R**
 - prior to introduction of a new greyhound **R**
 - prior to whelping **R**
 - upon the removal of puppies. **R.**
- 5.22 Greyhounds must be removed prior to hosing of greyhound housing areas and must not be returned until cleaning is complete and the area is dry. **R.**

Preventing transmission of disease

- 5.23 Visitors to all greyhound housing areas must be provided with access to hot and cold water hand washing facilities with soap, or hand sanitising stations.

- 5.24 Greyhounds diagnosed with or suspected of having an infectious disease must be separated from other dogs as soon as possible, kept isolated and cared for in a suitable area away from all other dogs at the premises. (The greyhound may need to be isolated in the care of a veterinary practice if suitable facilities cannot be provided on-site.) **R.**
- 5.25 Effective **biosecurity procedures** must be put in place to prevent spread of the infectious agent from isolation areas to other parts of the premises, or to other dogs or people. **R.**

Pest control

- 5.26 Safe and effective measures must be taken to control pests and vermin (including fleas, ticks, flies, mosquitoes, spiders and rodents) in greyhound housing areas. **R.**
- 5.27 Pest control chemicals must be kept in their original container and used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 5.28 Greyhounds must be removed from any areas where and while **noxious** pest control chemicals are being used. **R.**

Emergency evacuation procedures

- 5.29 Participants must ensure that greyhounds can be removed safely in the event of an emergency. **R.**
- 5.30 Participants must ensure that all greyhound housing areas have adequate fire protection, such as sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers, or smoke detectors. **R.**

Note: Participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply only with those Standards marked “R” in relation to those greyhounds.

Part 6: Transporting Greyhounds

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that greyhounds are transported in a safe and secure manner that provides for their wellbeing.

STANDARDS

- 6.1 Greyhounds must not be transported in a manner likely to cause injury or undue stress to the greyhound. **R**.
- 6.2 **Compartments** and **cages** used for transporting greyhounds must be **weatherproof**, have adequate ventilation and be maintained at a comfortable temperature and level of humidity for greyhounds.
- 6.3 When using compartments or cages for transporting greyhounds, participants must:
- provide enough space for the greyhound to sit, lie down and stand in a natural position;
 - where more than two greyhounds are transported in the same compartment or cage, individually restrain greyhounds during transport;
 - fix compartments/cages securely to the transport vehicle;
 - keep compartments/cages clean; and
 - disinfect compartments/cages at least four times each year, or as otherwise necessary to maintain good hygiene.
- 6.4 When being transported by road, greyhounds must, unless it is unsafe to do so, be removed from transport compartments/cages at least every three hours and offered an opportunity to drink, **exercise** and toilet.
- 6.5 Transport compartments or cages may only be used for temporary housing of greyhounds whilst attending race meetings or trials. Greyhounds temporarily housed in transport compartments or cages must be provided with access to water.

Note: Participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply only with those Standards marked “R” in relation to those greyhounds.

Part 7: Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment

OBJECTIVE

*To ensure that every greyhound is provided with adequate exercise, **socialisation** and enrichment to provide for its wellbeing.*

STANDARDS

- 7.1 All greyhounds, including puppies from the age of 3 weeks, must be provided with daily exposure to humans through gentle handling. **R.**
- 7.2 All puppies and greyhounds older than 8 weeks of age must be provided with regular contact with, and exposure to, other vaccinated dogs that are compatible.
- 7.3 Participants must provide greyhounds in their care with opportunities for expression of normal canine behaviours, to prevent stress and anxiety. If a greyhound shows signs of stress or anxiety which do not resolve quickly, or exhibits stereotypic behaviours, participants must seek veterinary treatment. **R.**
- 7.6 During each week, puppies aged 8–16 weeks must be provided with three or more of the following:
- a) lessons in how to walk on a lead whilst wearing a collar;
 - b) chasing games for play;
 - c) training to respond to basic verbal commands;
 - d) exposure to a variety of surfaces;
 - e) exposure to new experiences;
 - f) a variety of toys;
 - g) travel in cars or trailers;
 - h) exposure to different levels (such as walking up and down stairs).
- 7.7 Puppies aged 8–16 weeks must be housed in groups or pairs, unless directed otherwise by a veterinarian.

Greyhounds older than 16 weeks which have not yet commenced training

- 7.4 Each day, puppies aged 0–8 weeks must be provided with:
- a) access to normal puppy activity and play with its mother and littermates;
 - b) exposed to a variety of **surfaces**; and,
 - c) a variety of toys.
- 7.5 Puppies aged 8–16 weeks must be provided with:
- a) a minimum of one hour per day to run or play within a secure area outside of the greyhound housing area, and
 - b) access to toys for interactive play.
- 7.8 Greyhounds older than 16 weeks which have not yet commenced training for racing must be provided with:
- a) access to a secure area outside of the greyhound housing area for play, for a minimum of five hours each day;
 - b) interactive play or obedience training each day; and,
 - c) each week, two or more of the following -
 - reward-based training;
 - walking on a lead;
 - travel in cars or trailers;
 - racing-related activities (such as access to starting boxes, circular training facilities, straight tracks, lures or race-day cages).

Pregnant or lactating greyhounds

- 7.9 Pregnant or lactating greyhounds must be provided with:
- a) access to an exercise yard or walked on a lead for at least 60 minutes each day,
 - b) access to toys at all times, where this is beneficial to the greyhound.

Greyhounds in training or racing

- 7.10 Greyhounds that are in training or racing must be provided with:
- a) at least 30 minutes of free exercise each day, in the form of either free play outside the housing area, or being walked on a lead,
 - b) access to toys.

Spelling, breeding and retired greyhounds

- 7.11 All greyhounds which are being spelled or bred or which are retired must be provided with the following activities for a minimum of 60 minutes each day:
- a) exercise in an area outside the greyhound housing area, either through walking on a lead or access to an exercise yard;
 - b) access to toys. **R.**

Exercise, socialisation and enrichment plan

- 7.12 Participants must have a written plan detailing how the Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment standards in this Code will be met for the greyhounds in their care.
- 7.13 An Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment Plan may be temporarily varied or suspended where a greyhound is undergoing veterinary treatment and requires rest or rehabilitation as part of its treatment.

Muzzling

- 7.14 Any muzzle used on a greyhound must be the correct size and properly fitted, and must not cause pain, injury or distress to the greyhound. **R.**
- 7.15 Barking muzzles must not be used. Any muzzle used on a greyhound must not restrict normal behaviour such as panting or drinking. **R.**
- 7.16 Greyhounds must not be muzzled for more than 60 minutes at a time, and for no more than two hours in a 24-hour period, unless the greyhound is:
- a) being walked in a public place; **R**
 - b) being transported in a vehicle or trailer; **R**
 - c) in race day or trial kennels; **R**
 - d) acclimatising to a new environment; **R**
 - e) subject to a dangerous dog order made under the Companion Animals Act 1998; **R** or
 - f) under written direction by a veterinarian; or the Commission. **R.**
- 7.17 Greyhounds under the age of nine months must not be muzzled at any time, except:
- a) as part of the education process and then only whilst in the presence of the participant, **R**
 - b) while being transported in a vehicle or trailer; **R** or
 - c) at the written direction of a veterinarian. **R.**
- 7.18 Any veterinary direction in relation to muzzling of a greyhound that extends for longer than 6 months must be reviewed by a veterinarian within six months from the date that the direction was issued. **R.**

Note: Participants who keep retired greyhounds are required only to comply with those standards marked “R” in relation to those greyhounds.

Part 8: Training, Trialling and Racing

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that the welfare of greyhounds is protected in greyhound training, trialling and racing

STANDARDS

Training and trialling facilities

- 8.1 All training facilities, **trial tracks** and equipment used in the training, trialling and racing of greyhounds must be appropriately constructed, maintained, and fit for purpose, and supervised at all times when being used.

Training methods

- 8.2 Training of greyhounds must be based on positive reinforcement and the use of reward-based methods.
- 8.3 Teaching, training, and all other interactions with greyhounds, must be kind and humane.
- 8.4 **Aversive devices or substances** must not be used in the training of greyhounds.

Walking machines

- 8.5 A walking machine must only be used where:
- a) it is used in conjunction with other forms of exercise;
 - b) it is being supervised during use;
 - c) the greyhound has been behaviourally conditioned to willingly use a walking machine; and
 - d) the greyhound shows no signs of ongoing reluctance, fear or distress while using a walking machine.

Greyhound trialling and racing

- 8.6 Greyhounds shall only participate in trials or races that are conducted at a registered trial track or licensed racecourse.

- 8.7 No greyhound under the age of 16 months shall be nominated for a race.
- 8.8 No greyhound under the age of 12 months shall participate in a **trial**.
- 8.9 A greyhound that is presented for a trial or race must be fit and in proper condition to trial or race.
- 8.10 Greyhounds must be presented for examination by an **On-Track Veterinarian** prior to starting in a race.
- 8.11 A greyhound must not participate in a race or trial on consecutive days.
- 8.12 A female greyhound must not participate in or attend a race or trial if she is or is suspected of being pregnant or in season.
- 8.13 A greyhound which has whelped a litter must not participate in a race or trial until at least ten weeks after the date of whelping.
- 8.14 A greyhound which has mated or had semen drawn must not participate in a trial or race until at least two days after the mating or drawing of semen.
- 8.15 Any injury suffered by a greyhound during a trial must, as soon as practicable, be reported by the participant to the attending steward, if the trial is conducted at a licensed racetrack, or to the Commission if no steward is present. If the trial is conducted at a registered trial track, the injury must be reported to the trial track proprietor.
- 8.16 Any injury suffered by a greyhound during a race must be reported by the participant to the attending steward and On-Track Veterinarian.
- 8.17 Any request made by a steward or On-Track Veterinarian to seek veterinary treatment for a greyhound must be followed.

Note: Participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply only with those standards marked “R” in relation to those greyhounds.

Part 9: Rehoming Greyhounds as Companion Animals

OBJECTIVE

To optimise rehoming outcomes for greyhounds that are retired or otherwise unsuitable for racing.

STANDARDS

Retirement and preparation of greyhounds for rehoming

- 9.1 Where a greyhound **owner** does not wish to retain a greyhound, the owner must ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, that the greyhound is prepared for rehoming as a **companion animal**. **R**.

Requirements for rehoming of greyhounds

- 9.2 Greyhounds must be desexed prior to being rehomed as a companion animal. **R**.
- 9.3 Participants must not transfer a greyhound to a person who is under the age of 18 years. **R**.
- 9.4 It is an offence for a participant to transfer a greyhound in circumstances where the participant knows, or ought to know, or has reason to believe, that the greyhound may be **euthanased**. **R**.

Euthanasia

- 9.5 It is an offence for a participant to euthanase a greyhound, or cause a greyhound to be euthanased, other than in emergency circumstances where:
- a) delaying euthanasia would result in the greyhound experiencing unacceptable pain and suffering; and,
 - b) a veterinarian has been consulted but is unable to attend in a timely manner, and,
 - c) transporting the greyhound to a veterinarian would unreasonably prolong its suffering; and,
 - d) the euthanasia is performed using humane methods. **R**.

Note: *Participants who keep retired greyhounds are required to comply only with those standards marked “R” in relation to those greyhounds.*

10: Definitions

Greyhound: means a greyhound over the age of 16 weeks that is kept by a participant.

Artificial insemination: means insemination of a dam by any means other than natural mating.

Artificial insemination technician: means a person registered as an artificial insemination technician under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*.

Aversive substances or devices: means a substance or device used to deliver an unpleasant stimulus intended to suppress or diminish an unwanted behaviour, such as an electric shock, or an unpleasant noise or smell.

Barking muzzle: is a muzzle designed to restrict a greyhound's ability to bark.

Bed: means an impervious structure used by a greyhound to rest or sleep in.

Bedding: means the material used to line a bed to provide comfort and warmth to a greyhound.

Biosecurity procedures: means practices adopted to minimise the risk or spread of disease. These can include effective disinfection or containment of people, animals, equipment, materials or other contaminants within the isolation area.

Bullring: means a circular area used for educating and training greyhounds.

Cage: means a structure designed to temporarily contain greyhounds.

Code: means this Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice.

Commission: means the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (GWIC).

Companion animal: means a pet kept for a person's company. Companion animals must be registered under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Compartment: means an enclosure within a vehicle or trailer designed for transporting greyhounds.

Dam: means the mother of a litter of puppies.

Dog breeding stand: means a mechanical device or apparatus used to restrain a female greyhound during the act of mating.

Disinfectant: means a chemical used on an inanimate object or surface to destroy micro-organisms that may cause harm to greyhounds.

Euthanasia: means the humane destruction of a greyhound by a veterinarian using a rapid intravenous injection of concentrated barbiturate solution. Euthanasia may only be performed by a person who is not a veterinarian in exceptional, emergency circumstances and in such circumstances, must be performed using humane methods.

Enclosure: means an area fully secured by fences or barriers designed to prevent the escape of greyhounds.

Enrichment: means practices that expose greyhounds to situations or activities that help meet their physical and psychological needs, including any enrichment requirements outlined in this Code.

Exercise: means any physical activity of greyhounds that is designed to meet their physical and behavioural needs.

Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment

Plan: means a documented plan prepared by a participant detailing how the exercise, socialisation and enrichment needs of the greyhound/s in their care will be met.

Exercise yard: means an enclosure in which one or more greyhounds may be kept for several hours at a time for the purpose of exercising.

Gallop run: means an enclosure along which greyhounds can run.

Greyhound housing area: means all pens, kennels, cages and enclosures used to house greyhounds, being areas where the greyhounds sleep, eat or exercise.

Greyhound racing industry participant: means any of the following persons, whether or not the person is employed or engaged on a full-time basis and whether or not the person receives payment or other consideration for the activity concerned:

- a person who owns, breeds or keeps greyhounds,
- a person who trains greyhounds,
- a person who handles greyhounds at a greyhound race or trial,
- a person who acts as a bookmaker or bookmaker's clerk in connection with greyhound racing,
- a person who provides such health services to greyhounds as a prescribed by the regulations,
- any other person who is of a class of persons associated with greyhound racing that is prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this definition.

Handling: means any physical human contact with a greyhound, including grooming, patting/stroking, providing exercise, socialisation and enrichment, and carrying out of a physical health examination.

Heritable disease or defect: means a genetic trait that causes or has potential to cause significant adverse health or welfare issues in affected greyhounds or their progeny.

Humane euthanasia: means euthanasia where the greyhound is rendered immediately unconscious and does not regain consciousness before death.

Kennel: means a pen designed to house a greyhound, often in a series of adjacent pens designed to house multiple greyhounds or puppies.

Litter: means all offspring born dead or alive from a single whelping.

Mating: means the physical act of copulation between a male and a female greyhound.

Mating greyhounds pen: means an enclosure in which greyhounds are kept while mating.

Monitoring or Monitored: means observation and assessment of greyhounds on a regular basis, including but not limited to, during routine management activities.

Muzzle: means a wire, plastic or mesh piece of equipment that is designed specifically to cover the nose and jaw area of a greyhound, and does not restrict normal and necessary behaviour such as panting and drinking.

Noxious: means harmful or injurious to the health or well-being of greyhounds or humans.

On-Track Veterinarian: means a veterinarian employed by the Commission in attendance at a greyhound race meeting.

Owner: means the person registered with the Commission as the owner of a greyhound.

Participant: See Greyhound racing industry participant.

Pen: means a structure designed to house greyhounds or puppies.

Puppy: means a greyhound aged under 16 weeks.

Racing: means to run swiftly or to compete in a greyhound race event.

Registered: means registered under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*.

Regulation: means the *Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019*, and any other Regulation made under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*.

Rehoming: means transfer of a greyhound to a person who is not a greyhound racing industry participant.

Retired greyhound: means a greyhound which is registered with the Commission as retired from racing and/or breeding.

Sclerosing agent: means a chemical irritant which is injected into an injured ligament, tendon or bone injury to harden tissue to create scar tissue.

Slipping track: means a straight enclosure along which greyhounds can run.

10: Definitions

Socialisation: means interaction between a greyhound and other animals (including other greyhounds) and humans to make the greyhound suitable for life as a companion animal.

Spelling/spelled: means a period of rest.

Steward: means a person employed by the Commission as a Steward.

Surface: includes any texture within a housing pen or crate for the purpose of enrichment. For example hard floors, soft bedding, newspaper, artificial grass or turf.

Tethered or tethering: means securing a greyhound to an anchor point for the purpose of confining it to a desired area.

Training: means to teach, educate and/or instruct a greyhound in preparation for racing.

Training facilities: means a bullring, galloping run, slipping track, trial track and any other facility used for the purpose of training greyhounds.

Transfer or Transferred: means to change the ownership of a greyhound.

Trial or Trialling: means to cause a greyhound to run in race-like conditions, whether alone or with other greyhounds, at a licensed race or trial track, in pursuit of a mechanised lure.

Trial track: means any premises (other than a licensed racecourse) held out by the proprietor as being available for the purpose of enabling greyhounds (other than those owned by or leased to the proprietor) to compete in trials or be trained in racing, and includes such other premises as are prescribed by the *Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019*.

Veterinarian: means a veterinary practitioner registered under the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (NSW).

Veterinary treatment: means

- (a) medical treatment of a prophylactic or therapeutic nature carried out upon the animal by, or in accordance with directions given in respect of the animal by, a veterinary practitioner, or
- (b) surgical treatment of a prophylactic or therapeutic nature, or sterilisation, carried out upon the animal by a veterinary practitioner, or
- (c) a veterinary diagnostic procedure carried out on the animal by a veterinary practitioner, or
- (d) a veterinary consultation undertaken in respect of the animal by a veterinary practitioner, or
- (e) medical care given by a veterinary practitioner to an animal for an illness or injury.

Veterinarian advice: means advice provided to a participant by a veterinarian.

Weaned: means a greyhound puppy that no longer receives a milk diet provided by its mother or from an artificial source.

Weatherproof: means protection from the wind, rain and extreme temperatures, to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds in a greyhound housing area.

Whelping: means the process of giving birth to greyhound puppies or “whelps”. The term “whelp” refers to a newborn greyhound puppy that lacks the ability to see, hear, or regulate its body temperature. Whelps need to be nursed by their mother until weaning.

Whelping box or whelping area: means housing for a greyhound going through whelping and her puppies up to 16 weeks of age.

Whelping greyhound pen: means an enclosure designed to house a dam and her litter of puppies over the age of four weeks.



