



**Management & Care for each stage in the  
lifecycle of a Greyhound**

**1. Care of Greyhounds**

- 1.1 Greyhounds must be protected from distress or injury.
- 1.2 Greyhounds that may be distressed by the presence of other greyhounds should be housed in a manner that prevents or minimises visual contact.
- 1.3 All equipment should be designed and maintained to negate the risk of illness or injury.

**2. Record Keeping**

- 2.1 Appropriate records, in accordance with regulatory requirements, must be kept for:
  - a) The acquisition and disposal of greyhounds
  - a) Illness and death of greyhounds
  - a) Veterinary treatment

**3. Staff involved in the Care of Greyhounds**

- 3.1 All staff should be aware of their responsibilities toward greyhounds and be competent to carry these out. Formal training, such as a technical college qualification in greyhound care, is encouraged.
- 3.2 Members of staff should be knowledgeable and experienced.

**4. Stages in the Lifecycle of a Greyhound**

- 4.1 From conception, whelping and rearing of pups to 12 weeks
- 4.2 Pups from 12 weeks to pre-training
- 4.3 Pre-training (from 14 Months)
- 4.4 Race Training (18 Months to Retirement)
- 4.5 Racing
- 4.6 Sale and Export of Greyhounds
- 4.7 Retirement

#### 4. Stages in the Lifecycle of a Greyhound

##### 4.1 From conception, whelping and rearing of pups to 12 weeks

- Ensure every pregnant greyhound is wormed and immunised as per the advice of your veterinarian prior to whelping.
- Prior to a whelping being registered, at the expense of the owner of the bitch or other authorised person, the person shall lodge with the Controlling Body a DNA fingerprint analysis carried out by a laboratory approved by the Controlling Body on a sample taken from the bitch by a veterinary surgeon or other approved person and acceptable to the Controlling Body pursuant to any prescribed criterion. (GAR138 (1))
- Ensure every pregnant and lactating greyhound is healthy and robust prior to and after the birth of pups by feeding frequently.
- Prior to the birth of pups, arrange to have a veterinarian on call in case of emergency.
- Provide a whelping box of an appropriate size with adequate temperature control. The floor should be lined with absorbent disposable material, which is changed daily.
- Seek advice from a qualified or experienced person about nutrition and worming of lactating greyhounds and pups.
- The owner of a bitch, or a person authorised pursuant to the Rules, shall notify the result of a service/insemination notified to the Controlling Body by lodging with the Controlling Body the prescribed form together with the prescribed fee. The notification shall be lodged within 14 days of whelping or within 14 days of the due whelping date calculated as being 63 days after the date of service. (GAR 136(1)).
- Up until 12 weeks, pups must have sufficient space to move around the kennel and yard.
- Except with the prior consent of the Controlling Body, a litter of pups shall not be divided or relocated from the address of whelping until such time as they have been earbranded and microchipped. (GAR 136 (3))
- Pups should be vaccinated between 10 and 16 weeks of age and be ear branded and microchipped.
- Pups should not leave the breeder's premises until after ear branding and the second vaccination has taken place and must not be sold without a current certification of vaccination against distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus issued by a veterinary surgeon.

- Application for registration of a litter whelped in the jurisdiction of a Controlling Body shall be made by lodging with the Controlling Body, within the prescribed time,
  - (a) a completed prescribed application form together with the prescribed fee; and
  - (b) a certificate of vaccination against parvovirus, hepatitis and canine distemper issued by a veterinary surgeon identifying the greyhound by reference to its sex and ear branding and/or microchip identifications, that indicate that such vaccination was performed upon the greyhound at least between the age of 10 and 16 weeks. (GAR 137(1) (b))
- A litter, the subject of an application for registration, must be inspected, marked and ear branded and microchipped by a marking, microchipping and ear branding official before an application for registration of the litter can be made unless an exemption is granted by the Controlling Body.(GAR 137(2))

## 4.2 Pups from 12 weeks to Pre-Training

This is the most critical time of a greyhound's development.

- Owners must ensure that pups are reared in a yard or paddock in which they can run at full speed. It is preferable if pups can be reared with litter-mates only.
- Pups must receive sufficient food and water at all time to maintain good health (see Food and Water policy).
- Pups must be wormed regularly and kept free of internal and external parasites.
- Before going into a formal breaking in program, greyhounds (between 12 to 15 months) should go to a kennel establishment to be taught to walk on a lead and acclimatise to a kennel environment for at least 1 month.

### 4.3 Pre – Training (from 14 Months)

- An owner should give careful thought into choosing the education program for a young greyhound. This is usually a 4-week course where greyhounds are taught to chase the lure and made familiar with and comfortable with starting boxes.
- Feeding standards during this period should be designed to support the intense activity levels during this period.
- Identification of appropriate veterinary resources to ensure the continuing health and wellbeing of young greyhounds (see Health and Veterinary Care policy)
- It is preferable for a greyhound to have a one month spelling period after breaking in before being put into full training and work.

#### **4.4 Race Training (18 Months to Retirement)**

All trainers (Public or Owner/Trainers) should ensure that they:

- Develop minimum skill/knowledge standards including canine first aid knowledge.
- Provide kennels and training facilities that meet the minimum quality and maintenance standards, including hygiene.
- Develop training program standards including a minimum break of one month between pre-training and race training, and maximum permitted activity levels.
- Provide feeding standards appropriate to the level of training activity.
- Maintain records on the use of appropriate veterinary resources to minimise the potential for injury to greyhounds in training and racing.

The following policies and documents provide guidance on these responsibilities:

- Kennel Policy
- Hygiene Policy
- Food and Water Policy
- Health and Veterinary Care Policy
- Prohibited Substances Policy
- Recommended Standards for the Care of Greyhounds.

## 4.5 Racing

Rules, policies and operating standards are reviewed to minimise the risk of greyhound injury or distress and ensure prompt attention to injured dogs, including:

- Standards for race and trial track kennels, including ventilation and soundproofing;
- Rules and policies for pre-race kennelling consistent with greyhound welfare;
- Hot weather policy including triggers for abandoning race meetings;
- Standards for canine first aid skills and facilities at all trial and race tracks (including canine first aid kits, stretchers and canine first aid room);
- Clubs to ensure compulsory veterinarian attendance at all race meetings and tested and well publicised procedures for the club to contact a designated “on call” vet at trials;
- Standards for appropriate transportation facilities for greyhounds, including cooling/ventilation and safety requirements (see Transport policy).

#### **4.6 Sale and Export of Greyhounds**

- Registered owners are accountable for the welfare of all greyhounds registered to them, whether of racing quality or not.
- Registered greyhounds should only be sold or exported to reputable trainers/owners in countries with a properly managed and regulated greyhound racing industry, which respects the welfare of greyhounds and other animals. No greyhound should be exported without a greyhound passport being issued by Greyhounds Australasia.

## 4.7 Retirement

Administrators and participants have a responsibility to:

- Review grading and race programming policies to investigate means of extending the racing life of a greyhound.
- Develop standards for the appropriate management and care to ensure the welfare of the non-racing greyhound (of any age).
- Increase in the proportion of 'retired' greyhounds adopted through the GAP program through financial support and promotion of the GAP program.
- Minimise the need for euthanasia of 'retired' greyhounds wherever possible.
- Encourage the use of greyhounds of suitable quality for breeding.