

# Greyhounds Australasia Greyhound Welfare Strategy

The Greyhound racing industry in Australia is aware that the welfare of its racing animals is of paramount importance and is working towards a more consistent national approach to welfare issues. Uniform standards of care, education, accountability and enforcement are required across the country to ensure the best possible outcome for greyhounds at every stage of their lifecycle.

Industry success is tightly paired to excellence in greyhound welfare. The industry is open to ongoing scrutiny from an ever-changing community whose expectations in regards to racing animals has changed, and will continue to evolve. Due to this, Greyhounds Australasia and its members, recognise that the time has come for all state jurisdictions to align their strategies to ensure the standards of care and the welfare of every greyhound is not impacted by the movement of the greyhound from state to state. Industry-wide strategies for addressing breeding of unsuitable greyhounds and for the provision of career and retirement opportunities provide the only meaningful method of producing positive change.

This strategy is the next step in establishing standards of greyhound welfare excellence in the greyhound racing industry which are nationally accepted and consistent. It is about educating those people participating in the industry to enable them to make informed decisions at all stages of the greyhound's lifecycle and, ultimately, to deliver world-class levels of care for greyhounds.

## Greyhounds

*Move towards all greyhounds having to be under the care of a Registered Participant at all times during their lifecycle, unless retired as a pet*

- Opportunities exist to improve the tracking of greyhounds throughout their lifecycle to ensure that all greyhounds, not just those within the racing population, are housed and cared for in a manner that maximises their welfare, as well as their chances of a long and successful racing career; and
- This initiative will require licensing of people currently involved in the greyhound lifecycle who may not currently be licensed participants – i.e. contract whelpers, rearers etc.



***Introduce a national approach to breeding to further reduce the number of unsuitable greyhounds being bred, and to ensure the decision to breed a litter of greyhounds is a considered one***

- Introduction of processes to ensure breeders new to breeding greyhounds are provided with education **PRIOR** to any services occurring;
- Introduce a prerequisite where all female greyhounds intended for breeding must be registered as a breeding animal (with requirements for DNA, and vaccination) **PRIOR TO** any inseminations/services occurring. Confirmation that these requirements have been met will be easy for participants/studmasters to recognise with the introduction of a visually different registration card - 'a Pink Card' -indicating the animal has been registered for breeding;
- Introduction of an 'intent to breed' process – initially aimed at encouraging breeders to plan and consider their breeding options, but providing opportunity for strategies aimed at discouraging the repeated breeding of 'unsuccessful' bitches; and
- Rule amendments reducing the time allowed for the Notification of a Result of Service to seven days, with licensed contract whelpers able to submit results on behalf of the breeder.

***Maximising opportunities for all greyhounds to reach their full potential***

- Increased greyhound and industry protection through increased vaccination requirements aimed to bring all states in line with code of practice requirements;
- Protection of young, growing greyhounds through the introduction of strategies aimed at all stages from litter registration to racing. This includes registration, inspection and star rating of all rearing properties, breaking in facilities and pre-training establishments;
- Provision of resources and assistance for the new registration/licence types aimed at assisting the transition to full compliance, including fact sheets, record keeping and contract/agreement templates, assistance with council matters etc; and



- Development of an industry information package to assist owners and breeders so they can make educated and informed decisions around the services and service providers available at the different stages of their greyhound's lifecycle.

### ***Maximising racing opportunities for all Greyhounds***

- Ensure that the racing calendars throughout the states provide ample racing opportunities for greyhounds of all grades, ages and abilities and through co-operation, facilitate the movement of greyhounds between states based on ability to maximise the chances of a greyhound having a long racing career.

### ***End of career alternatives***

- To continue to implement specific and innovative changes that will ensure that the industry Greyhound Adoption Program's (GAP's) are continuing to operate in the most effective manner possible to meet industry demands;
- Increase data collection at the time of retirement – aimed at capturing information about the entire lifecycle of the greyhound; and
- Collation and monitoring of national data regarding greyhounds at each stage of the lifecycle – including retirement and euthanasia statistics so that the success of various strategies can be assessed.



## ***People/Participants***

### ***National approach to education***

- Develop formal education modules on relevant topics for delivery to all participants, including the option of progressing to the completion of a formal qualification of Certificate 2 in Racing (Greyhounds) through the national Vocational and Education framework;
- Development of Fact Sheets covering all aspects of the industry to support education material; and
- All new participants to be assessed on core competencies before obtaining the relevant licence.

### ***Registration and Licensing***

- Move towards all people that care for greyhounds at any stage of the lifecycle (until retirement) being registered with peak bodies;
- Introduce a tiered system of trainer licence types which stipulate how many greyhounds trainers are able to train; and
- Ongoing licensing by peak bodies to be subject to inspection and compliance with maintenance of facility standards.

### ***Inspection & compliance***

- All facilities at which greyhounds are housed with licensed people, throughout their lifecycle, to be subject to regular inspection; and
- All new facilities/kennels to be compliant with relevant codes of practice as well as Council and Government requirements.



## Next Steps

All states and territories have committed to the full implementation of this strategy over the next three years. Controlling bodies will now engage their registered participants to confirm strategy implementation plans. The GA Welfare Working Party will determine an appropriate oversight body to support each jurisdiction with their implementation.

