



Supplement to Codes of Practice – Greyhound Euthanasia

Policy number: LAP05

Date policy was made

05 February 2018

Commencement date of this version 06/02/2018

Application

This policy applies to all greyhound racing industry participants with the care, custody, control, and/or ownership of greyhounds.

As a policy adopted by GRNSW, failure to comply with the terms below is an offence under the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules (see R86(ag)) and may result in penalties ranging from fines to cancellation of registration.

This policy is supplemented by, and should be read in conjunction with, the Guideline to Supplement to Codes of Practice – Greyhound Euthanasia published by GRNSW (**Guidelines**).

Purpose

This policy clarifies the greyhound euthanasia requirements of Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**) and supplements the existing 'Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training' and the 'Code of Practice for Breeding, Rearing and Education' (together, the **Codes of Practice**).

This policy also aligns GRNSW's euthanasia requirements with the requirements of the *Greyhound Racing Prohibition Act 2016* (the **Prohibition Act**) and the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel recommendations (**Panel Recommendations**).

Background

On 26 August 2016, the *Greyhound Racing Prohibition Act 2016* commenced which requires owners of greyhounds registered in New South Wales to notify or seek consent from GRNSW if they want to do certain things with their greyhound.

Relevantly, the Prohibition Act prohibits a greyhound owner from destroying a greyhound or causing it to be destroyed unless the owner has written consent from GRNSW. GRNSW consent is not required if the greyhound is destroyed by a veterinary surgeon in an emergency in order to relieve it of suffering or distress due to injury or illness.

On 16 February 2017, the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel made recommendations to the NSW Government as to the future governance and regulation of the greyhound racing industry in NSW, including the following:

86. Euthanasia can only be administered by a qualified veterinary surgeon who deems it to be in the greyhound's best interest, or by an owner in the circumstances prescribed under the POCTA Act 1979.

87. Evidence of attempts to rehome the greyhound must be provided to the veterinarian when deciding if euthanasia is in the greyhound's best interest.

88. If a qualified veterinary surgeon euthanises a greyhound on the basis of the owner's inability or unwillingness to care for the greyhound, or where the greyhound has been deemed unsuitable for rehoming based on behavioural issues, the veterinary surgeon must notify the integrity commission.

89. The death of a greyhound must be reported to the integrity commission and accompanied by a certificate from a qualified veterinary surgeon outlining the circumstances of the death.

On 29 March 2017, each of the Panel Recommendations above were accepted in principle by the NSW Government, subject to further consultation with the veterinary industry.

Policy

- 1.1 Despite paragraphs 14.1 to 14.6 in the Codes of Practice, euthanasia of greyhounds must only be undertaken in accordance with this Supplement.
- 1.2 A person must not euthanase or otherwise destroy any greyhound without the prior written consent of GRNSW. To apply for consent, the GRNSW [Consent Form](#) must be completed and signed by the greyhound's owner and the administering qualified veterinary surgeon.
- 1.3 GRNSW's consent to euthanase a greyhound is not required if the greyhound is destroyed by a veterinary surgeon in accordance with section 26AA of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW) where an animal is so severely injured, so diseased or in such a physical condition that it is cruel to keep it alive.
- 1.4 Prior to considering euthanasia, owners of racing greyhounds must explore all possible appropriate options for their retiring greyhounds. At a minimum, an owner must attempt to rehome the greyhound with **no less than two** rehoming providers, including at least one attempt with both of:
 - (a) Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) program; and
 - (b) a private rehoming provider facility.
- 1.5 In the event that a rehoming provider is unable to rehome the greyhound within 10 business days from the date of the initial inquiry with the rehoming provider, the rehoming provider is deemed unable to rehome the greyhound.
- 1.6 Evidence of attempts to rehome the greyhound must be attached to the Consent Form and must be provided to the qualified veterinary surgeon administering euthanasia when deciding if euthanasia is in the greyhound's best interest.
- 1.7 GRNSW will notify owners of the outcome of a request to euthanase a greyhound within five business days of receipt of a valid request.
- 1.8 Where GRNSW provides consent, euthanasia can only be administered by the following persons and in the following prescribed circumstances:

- (a) a qualified veterinary surgeon, who deems it to be in the greyhound's best interest having had regard to evidence provided as to attempts to rehome the greyhound in accordance with [1.6] above; or
 - (b) an owner in the circumstances prescribed in the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (NSW).
- 1.9 If a qualified veterinary surgeon euthanases a greyhound on the basis of the owner's inability or unwillingness to care for the greyhound's welfare, or where the greyhound has been deemed unsuitable for rehoming based on behavioural issues, the veterinary surgeon must notify GRNSW via the GRNSW [Consent Form](#).
- 1.10 The method of disposal and/or location of burial must be recorded and documented by the greyhound's owner.
- 1.11 Following euthanasia of a greyhound, you must lodge a [Notification of Retirement Form](#) (along with a veterinary certificate of euthanasia) with GRNSW within two working days in order to meet the requirements of Rule 106 of the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules.
- 1.12 Where GRNSW does not provide consent to euthanase a greyhound, GRNSW will consider whether it will provide, in its sole discretion, support to the owner for the purposes of kennelling or maintaining the greyhound. Any such support will be strictly limited to ensuring and maintaining the welfare of the greyhound. The nature and extent of any such support will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Guiding principles for greyhound euthanasia

- 1.13 Greyhounds which are physically healthy and behaviourally sound should be given the opportunity to be kept as a companion animal.
- 1.14 Greyhounds should only be placed in homes where it is believed they will be appropriately cared for.
- 1.15 There are certain circumstances where humane destruction of a greyhound may be unavoidable due to health, behavioural or legislative reasons or where the welfare and quality of life of the greyhound are at risk due to a lack of appropriate rehoming options.
- 1.16 The destruction of a greyhound must be undertaken humanely by a veterinary surgeon. Veterinary surgeons should continue to exercise their professional judgement to act in the best interests of the animals in their care.

Consequences of a breach of this policy

Persons found to have destroyed a greyhound other than in accordance with the provisions of the Prohibition Act are subject to a maximum fine of up to \$5,500. GRNSW may also take further action against anyone found to have breached the Prohibition Act or failed to comply with this policy.

The maximum penalty that may be imposed under the Rules is \$22,000 and/or suspension, disqualification, warning off and/or cancellation of registration.

Definitions

Codes of Practice means the 'Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training' and the 'Code of Practice for Breeding, Rearing and Education'.

Consent Form means the GRNSW form to apply for consent to do certain things under the *Greyhound Racing Prohibition Act 2016*.

GRNSW means Greyhound Racing NSW

Prohibition Act means the *Greyhound Racing Prohibition Act 2016*

Rules mean the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules.

Amendments to, and operation of, this policy

GRNSW reserves the right to amend this policy at any time.

Policy information

Effective dates

Date policy was made: 29/08/2016 Commencement date of this version: 06/02/2018

Policy details

Policy number: LAP05 Date for review: As required

Revision history

| Version | Date | Description |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1.01 | 29/08/2016 | Endorsed |
| 2.01 | 06/02/2018 | CEO approval |