Supplement to Codes of Practice –
Greyhound Euthanasia
Policy number: WEL03

Date policy was made
29 August 2016

Commencement date of this version
29 August 2016

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

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).

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 practitioner in an emergency in order to relieve it of suffering or distress due to injury or illness.

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. You must not euthanase or otherwise destroy any greyhound without the written consent of GRNSW. To apply for consent, the GRNSW Consent Form must be completed and signed by the greyhound’s owner.

1.3. GRNSW’s consent to euthanase a greyhound is not required if the greyhound is destroyed by a veterinary practitioner in an emergency in order to relieve it of suffering or distress due to injury or illness.

1.4. GRNSW will only provide consent after the information provided in the Consent Form has been assessed and GRNSW is satisfied that the greyhound will be humanely destroyed. 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.
1.5. The method of disposal and/or location of burial must be recorded and documented by the greyhound's owner.

**Guiding principles for greyhound euthanasia**

1.6. Owners of racing greyhounds must explore all possible appropriate options for their retiring greyhounds prior to considering euthanasia.

1.7. Greyhounds which are physically healthy and behaviourally sound should be given the opportunity to be kept as a companion animal.

1.8. Greyhounds should only be placed in homes where it is believed they will be appropriately cared for.

1.9. 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.

1.10. The destruction of a greyhound must be undertaken humanely by a veterinary practitioner. Veterinary practitioners 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 Prohibition Act's provisions are subject to a maximum fine of up to $5500. 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 August 2016
- Commencement date of this version: 29 August 2016

**Policy details**

- Policy number: WEL03
- Policy owner: Chief Veterinary Officer
- Date for review: As required

**Revision history**

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