Code of Practice
for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds Draft



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Published by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

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Authorised by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. 1 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000.

ISBN 978-1-925629-47-7 (print)

ISBN 978-1-925629-48-4 (pdf/online)

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## Introduction

The purpose of the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds (Code) is to specify the minimum standards of staffing, accommodation, management, breeding and care required for the physical and behavioural needs of a racing greyhound throughout its lifecycle.

This Code is made under Section 63AC of Part 4AA of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Vic) and applies to the keeping of all racing greyhounds registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria.

Compliance with this Code and its provisions is mandatory for any person who keeps a racing greyhound.

All Establishments used to keep racing greyhounds must also comply with state and local government legislation, and permits and guidelines issued or made under such law (such as GRV Rules).

## Definitions

These definitions are provided solely for the purpose of interpreting this Code.

**Act**: means the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Vic).

**Adolescent greyhound**: means a greyhound between 16 weeks and 9 months
of age.

**Artificial insemination**: means insemination of a female greyhound by any means other than natural mating.

**Authorised officer**: means a person appointed as an authorised officer under section 71, 71A, 72 or 72A of the Act.

**Bed**: means an impervious structure, raised off the level of the floor, that

is sufficiently large enough to allow the greyhound to comfortably lie down when housed. The main component of a bed must not be constructed from concrete
or metal.

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

**Boarding**: means the taking of custody or possession of the greyhound for keeping, accommodation, care, training or feeding for fee or reward.

**Bullring**: see Circular Training Facility.

**Business hours**: means an 8 hour period between the hours of 5 am and 8 pm on any given day, including weekends during which an establishment is in operation. Staffing during the business hours may be staggered in shifts over a 24 hour period to ensure that greyhounds can be fed at 12 hourly intervals where required.

**Cage**: means a structure designed for temporary containment of greyhounds.

**Circular Training Facility**: means a circular area used for greyhound education, training or fitness and includes a Bullring.

**Code**: means this Code of Practice.

**Day yards**: means those areas described in Section 6.6.10 of this Code.

**DEDJTR**: means Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

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

**Educator**: means a person who educates or re-educates a greyhound to chase a lure or compete in a race and familiarises it with the race track environment before it progresses to racing with a trainer.

**Enclosure**: means an area fully secured by fences or barriers designed to prevent the escape of greyhounds from within and entry of animals from outside the area.

**Enrichment**: means practices that provide situations or activities for greyhounds that are designed to meet their physical and psychological needs, including any enrichment requirements outlined in this Code.

**Establishment**: means a property used to keep racing greyhounds.

**Euthanasia Certificate**: means a certificate provided by a veterinary practitioner setting out the matters listed at Section 4.2 of this Code.

**Exercise**: means practices and activities involving the physical activity and movement of greyhounds as appropriate to meet their behavioural and physical needs, including any exercise requirements outlined in this Code.

**Experience**: means the actual observation of or practical acquaintance with facts or events. For the purposes of this Code, experience includes an

accumulation of knowledge equivalent to or in excess of any training provided by DEDJTR.

**First aid**: means immediate care and treatment administered to a greyhound with an injury or illness. first aid does not include veterinary attention.

**Full-time staff member**: means staff members working 8 hours of work, such 8 hours being made up of either one staff member working a continuous

8 hour shift, or multiple staff members working divided shifts to the equivalent of 8 hours.

**GAP**: means the Greyhound Adoption Program operated by GRV.

**General health check**: means physical examination to assess the health of a greyhound, including but not limited to assessments for:

* medical conditions;
* musculoskeletal injuries;
* infectious and zoonotic diseases;
* internal and external parasites;
* dental, eye, skin and ear issues;
* breed specific conditions and genetic abnormalities including heritable defects;
* age related conditions and ailments;
* body condition scoring; and
* behavioural health issues including signs of stress, aggression, and stereotypies.

**Greyhound**: means a GRV greyhound.

**Greyhound housing area**: means all pens, kennels, cages and enclosures used to house greyhounds at the establishment, including areas where the greyhounds sleep, eat and spend the majority of their time. A greyhound housing area includes any isolation housing, whelping and lactating areas at the establishment.

**GRV**: means Greyhound Racing Victoria.

**GRV greyhound**: means a greyhound registered with GRV, including offspring of a greyhound under 7 days of age, except for a greyhound which has been retired outside of the industry through the GAP, or retired outside of the industry as a pet that is or should be registered with the local municipal council in which it resides.

**GRV registered greyhound owner**: means the person who, for race winnings purposes, owns the greyhound.

**GRV rule**: means a rule made by GRV under or pursuant to the *Racing Act 1958* (Vic).

**GRV participant**: means a person that is registered with GRV, including a person registered as an owner, greyhound attendant, catcher, handler, educator, trainer, rearer or breeder of greyhounds.

**GRV policy**: means a policy developed by GRV.

**GRV treatment record book**: means a document in which a GRV participant records all veterinary attention, health and behavioural requirements, including medical treatments, of a greyhound. A GRV Treatment Record Book incorporates a health management plan which sets out any injectable administered from

any person, vaccinations and parasitic control, and will need to comply with any other GRV requirement within the GRV Policies and/or Rules.

**Handling**: means activities including grooming, soft patting/stroking, lifting the greyhound, turning the greyhound over, providing exercise, enrichment and human socialisation for the greyhound and carrying out a physical health examination by inspecting the greyhound’s paws, ears and teeth.

**Heritable defect**: means a physical deformity, disease or disorder that is passed on genetically from one generation to the next.

**Hobby establishment**: means a property that keeps no more than 2 greyhounds over the age of 16 weeks.

**Housing acclimatisation program**: means a program to acclimatise the greyhound to racing kennels as described in Section 6.3.9 of this Code.

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

**Husbandry**: means the care, management and breeding of greyhounds.

**Impervious**: means materials or sealed materials that prevent the penetration or absorption of water, urine or any other liquids.

**Independent veterinary practitioner**: means a veterinary practitioner who is not related by blood, marriage, or de facto relationship to the proprietor (or family member of the proprietor) of the establishment and has no commercial interest in the establishment.

**Isolation housing**: means kept in a separate area to general greyhound housing and exercise areas, used specifically to house greyhounds diagnosed with or suspected of having an infectious disease.

**Kennel**: means a series of pens designed to house multiple greyhounds or puppies.

**Keep or Keeping or Kept**: includes any one or more of the following activities in respect of a GRV greyhound:

* breeding;
* whelping;
* rearing;
* education (also referred to as breaking);
* training;
* racing;
* boarding; and
* any other activity that involves the care of a GRV greyhound.

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

**Material Safety Data Sheets**: means a document that provides information on the properties of hazardous chemicals and how they affect health and safety in the establishment.

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

**Mating period**: means the period of time during which the series of mating events occur to achieve a pregnancy.

**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 piece of equipment that is used to cover the nose and jaw area of a greyhound, which can include a wire cage muzzle, plastic muzzle, barking muzzle, basket muzzle or racing muzzle. The different varieties of muzzle are used for the following purposes:

* Barking muzzle - used to prevent barking in the greyhound.
* Basket muzzle - used to prevent biting and injury of the greyhound.
* Plastic muzzle - used to prevent biting and injury of the greyhound and made from plastic materials.
* Racing muzzle - used in the education, training and racing of greyhounds.
* Wire cage muzzle - used to prevent biting and injury of the greyhound and made from light weight metal materials.

**Notice of Intent to Euthanase**: means a notice submitted to GRV before the euthanasia of a greyhound in accordance with the requirements set out in Section 4.2 of this Code.

**Operations manager**: means a person responsible for the day to day operation of a greyhound establishment.

**Overnight**: means a continuous period of time outside of business hours.

**Owner**: includes a person who keeps or harbours the greyhound or has the greyhound in his or her care for the time being whether the greyhound is at large or in confinement.

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

**Professional establishment:** means a property that keeps more than 2 racing greyhounds.

**Proprietor**: means a person who legally registers the establishment.

**Puppy**: means a greyhound aged less than 16 weeks.

**Qualifications**: means a minimum formal qualification provided by a registered training organisation in the management, training, educating (including breaking) or breeding of Greyhounds. Completion of the GRV/ Animal Welfare Science Centre Training Course will be viewed as a ‘Qualification’ for the purposes of this definition.

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

**Racing greyhound**: see GRV greyhound.

**Rearer**: means a person who raises, socialises or commences the early education of greyhounds.

**Rearing**: means to raise a greyhound to maturity.

**Slipping Track**: means a straight yard area along which greyhounds can run.

**Sell**: means to barter or exchange and includes agreeing to sell, offering or exposing for sale, keeping or having in possession for sale, sending, forwarding, delivering or receiving for or on sale or authorising, directing, causing, suffering, permitting or attempting any such acts or things, in accordance with the definition of “sell” in section 3(1) of the *Wildlife Act 1975* (Vic) and as that definition is amended from time to time.

**Service**: means physical mating or artificial insemination of a greyhound.

**Socialisation**: means interaction between an individual greyhound and other animals (including greyhounds) and humans with the objective of making the individual greyhound fit for a life in companionship with others. Socialisation includes the requirements set out in this Code.

**Spelling**: means a period of rest.

**Staff**: includes the owner, proprietor, operations manager, greyhound attendants, volunteers, whelpers, educators and/or rearers of greyhounds.

**Training**: means to teach, educate, instruct, and/or discipline a greyhound for a fee or reward.

**Transfer or Transferred**: means the change in location of a Greyhound including transfers related to the hiring out or leasing of a Greyhound. Applicable changes in location exclude short distance movements of a Greyhound associated with activities such as race or trial track attendance or attendance at a Veterinary Practitioner, among other things.

**Veterinary attention**: means the examination and provision of appropriate treatment of a greyhound by a veterinary practitioner in accordance with the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997* (Vic).

**Veterinary practitioner**: means a veterinary practitioner registered under the

*Veterinary Practice Act 1997* (Vic).

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

**Washable**: means an impervious surface that is capable of being cleaned with liquids.

**Weatherproof**: means protection from the wind, rain and extreme temperatures to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds housed in an establishment.

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

**Whelping Kennels**: means housing for a whelping greyhound and her puppies up to sixteen weeks of age.

**Whelping Pens**: means pens designed to protect greyhound puppies during whelping and early life by keeping them safely contained, protected from cold, and safe from the danger of crushing or smothering by the mother.

**Zoonoses**: means diseases of animals transmissible to humans.

**Greyhound classifications**:

* adult female - 9 months of age or older;
* adult male - 9 months of age or older;
* retired and de-sexed female/male;
* pregnant female greyhound;
* whelping female greyhound;
* lactating female greyhound;
* pre-weaned puppy - less than 8 weeks of age
* orphaned puppy - less than 8 weeks of age, that is being provided milk or formula from an artificial source;
* weaned puppy - 8 to 16 weeks of age; and
* adolescent entire greyhound - between 16 weeks and 9 months of age.

Interpretation

In this Code:

* Where there are different or differently expressed obligations on a person at different places in this Code, those obligations are cumulative and all must be complied with.
* A reference to legislation refers to that legislation as amended from time to time.
* A reference to a code, guidelines or another document issued by an industry or standard-setting body refers to that document as made at the date of this Code.

## Staffing

All properties where greyhounds are kept must be compliant with the minimum staffing requirements set out in this Code. Whether the property functions as

a professional or hobby establishment, there must be a competent person responsible for the day-to-day management and care of the greyhounds. For large professional establishments, individual staff may take on the roles described below. For hobby establishments, the individual in charge of the

greyhound is responsible for all the activities outlined below under Sections 3.2 (*Proprietor*), 3.3 (*Operations Manager*) and 3.4 (*Greyhound attendants*).

### Staff ratio

All establishments must employ the minimum number of staff suitably qualified or experienced to fulfil their obligations under this Code.

A minimum of one full-time staff member must be present onsite at the establishment during business hours for every 25 greyhounds (or equivalent) housed in the establishment. The staffing ratio must be maintained seven days per week.

A single (1) greyhound is equivalent to:

* one (1) greyhound over the age of 16 weeks that is individually housed; or
* a litter of puppies under the age of 8 weeks and their mother that are housed together; or
* a litter of up to ten (10) puppies over the age of 8 weeks housed together in a rearing pen; or
* a litter of up to four (4) adolescent greyhounds between the age of 16 weeks and 9 months housed together in a rearing pen.

For example, 25 greyhound equivalents may comprise of the following:

* fourteen female greyhounds, each without a litter (14);
* three male greyhounds (3);
* six separate litters under the age of 8 weeks residing with their mothers (6); plus
* two, six month old litters, each litter housed together in rearing pens (2).

This is equivalent to 25 greyhounds and therefore requires one full-time staff member during business hours.

A minimum of one staff member must be present onsite at the establishment during non-business hours where the establishment has 25 or more greyhounds (or equivalents) housed in the establishment.

Additional staff at ratio of 1 staff member for every 50 greyhounds (or equivalent) housed in the establishment during non-business hours must be available ‘on call’ to attend the establishment in the case of an emergency. On call staff must be able to travel to the establishment within 30 minutes of being contacted.

For example:

* For 25 greyhounds housed during non-business hours (overnight), there must be 1 onsite staff member present at the establishment;
* for 50 greyhounds housed during non-business hours (overnight), there must be 1 onsite staff member present at the establishment and 1 staff member

on call and able to attend the establishment within 30 minutes of being contacted in the event of an emergency;

* for 100 greyhounds housed overnight, there must be 1 onsite staff member present at the establishment and 2 staff members on call and able to attend the establishment within 30 minutes of being contacted in the event of an emergency; or
* for 150 greyhounds housed overnight, there must be 1 onsite staff member present at the establishment and 3 staff members on call and able to attend the establishment within 30 minutes of being contacted in the event of an emergency.

The onsite, overnight staff must be available to care for whelping, sick or injured greyhounds and to undertake emergency activities if necessary.

For establishments with fewer than 25 greyhounds (or equivalent), there is no requirement for a full-time staff member, however, female greyhounds showing signs of labour or in labour must be monitored as per the requirements detailed in this Code, including as set out in Section 6.3.6 (Whelping).

**Note**

The overnight staffing ratio assumes that all exercise, enrichment, socialisation, handling, feeding, cleaning and general care activities are undertaken during business hours. Overnight staff are available only to care for whelping, sick

or injured greyhounds that may need attention overnight and to undertake emergency activities should the need arise.

The staffing ratio during business hours assumes that staff may need to work in shifts to maintain feeding and cleaning routines throughout the day. Shift

length for staff during business hours does not need to be a minimum of 8 hours, however the establishment must have the minimum Staff ratio for a period of

8 hours during business hours.

For example, an establishment with 80 greyhounds (or equivalent) may set up the following staff roster during business hours of 7.30 am–3.30 pm:

**Monday to Friday**

7.00 am–1.30 pm — Proprietor or Owner

7.00 am–3.30 pm — Operations manager

7.30 am–1.30 pm — Greyhound attendant 1

7.30 am–1.30 pm — Greyhound attendant 2

1.30 pm–7.00 pm — Greyhound attendant 3

1.30 pm–7.00 pm — Greyhound attendant 4

1.00 pm–3.30 pm — Greyhound attendant 5

**Weekend**

7.00 am–1.30 pm – Saturday —Operations manager

7.00 am–1.30 pm – Sunday — Proprietor or Owner

7.00 am–1.30 pm – Saturday & Sunday — Greyhound attendant 5

7.30 am–1.30 pm —Saturday — Greyhound attendant 3

7.30 am–1.30 pm – Sunday — Greyhound attendant 4

7.30 am–1.30 pm – Saturday & Sunday — Greyhound attendant 6

1.30 pm–7.00 pm —Saturday — Greyhound attendant 1

1.30 pm–7.00 pm – Sunday — Greyhound attendant 2

1.30 pm–7.00 pm – Saturday & Sunday —Greyhound attendant 7

**Overnight** the establishment may have the following staff roster:

3.30 pm–7.00 am —Proprietor or Owner

Operations manager or greyhound attendant 5, 6 or 7 to be available ‘on call’.

### Proprietor

The proprietor of a greyhound establishment, who may or may not also be the owner of the greyhounds at the establishment, is responsible for:

* the health and wellbeing of all greyhounds housed at the establishment;
* the overall management of the establishment;
* ensuring compliance with any relevant state or local legislation and codes of practice, including planning requirements or guidelines;
* ensuring greyhounds are registered with GRV within seven days of birth and obtaining a GRV registration number and GRV treatment record book for each puppy;
* the overall level of hygiene in the establishment, including the disposal of waste materials;
* promoting and supporting relevant formal and informal training for staff;
* supervision of daily feeding, watering and inspection of all greyhounds;
* having a written agreement with sufficient veterinary practitioners to provide prompt veterinary attention for greyhounds other than first aid, and if necessary, euthanasia;
* notifying owners (or their authorised representatives) of boarded greyhounds as soon as possible when a greyhound is observed to be ailing or injured or promptly after a veterinary practitioner has examined the animal;
* the protection of staff health at the establishment;
* the development and maintenance of an emergency management plan;
* acting on reports from staff of any issues that affect the operation and management of the establishment; and
* ensuring the maintenance and retention of records.

The proprietor must enter into a written agreement with one or more veterinary practitioners to undertake the veterinary and health management planning activities for the establishment. The proprietor of an establishment must

have, and adhere to, a written health management plan that has been formulated in consultation with a veterinary practitioner and is reviewed on an annual basis and/or whenever a change in veterinary practitioners

occurs, whichever is more frequent. Euthanasia must only be carried out by a veterinary practitioner, except in emergency situations where the operations manager may carry out humane euthanasia under the direction of a veterinary practitioner. All establishments must have an emergency euthanasia plan developed in conjunction with their veterinary practitioner set out in their health management plan.

Where planning permission is not required under a Planning Scheme or the establishment is operating under the Planning Guidelines for Racing Dog Keeping and Training Facilities, the proprietor must notify their local council of the location of their establishment and number of greyhounds being kept.

The proprietor may act as the operations manager or appoint a person to that role. If the proprietor does not have experience and qualifications in the management and breeding of greyhounds, they must employ an operations manager with appropriate experience and qualifications.

In circumstances where staff are not employed by the establishment, the proprietor must undertake all the duties of the operations manager and greyhound attendants as well as their own duties, as outlined in this Code.

**Note**

At any given establishment, the proprietor (who may also be the owner) can act as the operations manager and greyhound attendant. Similarly, the operations manager can act as a greyhound attendant at any time. That is, they can undertake the duties of another type of staff member.

### Operations manager

The operations manager reports to the proprietor and is responsible for the day to day operation of the establishment which includes the following tasks:

* ensuring the health and wellbeing of all greyhounds in the establishment;
* reporting to the proprietor on matters of compliance and disease outbreaks within 24 hours of first observation;
* carrying out the directions of the veterinary practitioner;
* identifying and monitoring pregnant greyhounds;
* supervision of the movement of pregnant greyhounds to whelping/lactating accommodation;
* supervision of staff and the provision of training;
* maintenance and collation of records and statistics;
* supervision of daily feeding, watering, and inspection of all greyhounds;
* supervision of daily environmental enrichment, exercising, handling, and training activities;
* maintaining the overall level of hygiene in the establishment, including the disposal of waste materials;
* implementing and maintaining the establishment’s insect (e.g. flies, mosquitos), ectoparasite (e.g. fleas, lice, ticks) and vertebrate (e.g. rats, mice) pest management program;
* provision of prompt first aid and veterinary attention for greyhounds when required;
* responding to emergency situations applicable to both humans and greyhounds including the implementation of evacuation procedures;
* contributing to the development of and carrying out of the Establishment emergency management action plan in the event of an emergency;
* monitoring the physical and psychological health of greyhounds;
* seeking relevant expert advice for adverse behavioural change in a greyhound;
* removal or disposal of greyhounds from the establishment;
* meeting the requirements to transfer or sell greyhounds;
* enacting retirement plans for retiring or retired greyhounds;
* acting upon reports by staff about their responsibilities; and
* ensuring the greyhound transport vehicle meets the minimum standards set out in this Code.

To operate a greyhound establishment, an operations manager must have either the requisite experience or qualifications as those terms are defined in this Code and also show current competency in greyhound husbandry.

Operations managers must be equipped with the necessary skills to meet the physical and behavioural needs of greyhounds in relation to mating, whelping, feeding, watering and general health and wellbeing.

The operations manager of a greyhound establishment with fertile breeding greyhounds must provide evidence upon request by an Authorised Officer that they are competent in the husbandry and breeding of greyhounds.

If an operations manager is in training and has not yet attained the necessary qualifications and/or experience required by this Code, they must operate under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

The operations manager may also act in the role of greyhound attendant or appoint persons to that role.

### Greyhound attendants

Greyhound attendants working at the establishment must be trained, experienced and competent in the management of greyhounds. If greyhound attendants are not trained, experienced or competent, they must work under the direct supervision of the operations manager. All trainee or volunteer greyhound attendants must work under the care and supervision of the operations manager.

#### Duties

Greyhound attendants are responsible for carrying out the following duties and must report to the operations manager:

* daily feeding, watering and inspection of all greyhounds;
* any dead greyhounds and the removal of bodies from the greyhound housing area;
* daily cleaning of greyhound housing areas by removing all faeces and soiled food, hosing out with water, replacing soiled bedding material and cleaning all feeding and drinking utensils;
* administering medication and treatment as prescribed by veterinary practitioner;
* routine disinfection of greyhound housing areas and equipment;
* exercising, socialising, handling and training of greyhounds as required by the operations manager;
* provision of environmental enrichment for the greyhounds; and
* record keeping.

#### When immediate action must be taken by the greyhound attendant

The greyhound attendant must immediately take action as follows:

1. report to the operations manager any greyhound showing signs of pregnancy or whelping;
2. report to the operations manager any greyhound showing signs of any of the following injuries or illnesses:
	* physical abnormality;
	* change in normal behaviour indicative of an animal health or welfare concern;
	* signs of swelling, including apparent pain, heat, redness or loss of function;
	* bleeding of body parts;
	* tail injuries;
	* ear or eye swelling, discharge and/or discomfort;
	* bloating of the abdomen;
	* difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate;
	* red or brown coloured urine;
	* symptoms of gum or dental disease including red, swollen or receding gums, yellow or brown crust near the gum line, or loose, missing or broken teeth;
	* unusual gait, lameness, fits or staggering;
	* inability to stand or walk;
	* lack of appetite;
	* increased thirst or urination;
	* weight loss;
	* patchy hair loss;
	* mastitis;
	* scratching of coat or ears;
	* parasites or indicators of parasites; or
	* any other signs that the health or wellbeing of the greyhound is compromised.
3. isolate any greyhound showing signs of infectious disease or potentially infectious disease by moving the greyhound to isolation housing. Symptoms of infectious disease may include the following:
	* coughing;
	* vomiting;
	* diarrhoea, especially if blood-stained;
	* repeated sneezing;
	* runny nose; or
	* runny or inflamed eyes;
4. after moving a greyhound to isolation housing as above, disinfect that greyhound’s housing, bedding material and feeding and drinking utensils. Greyhound attendants must take precautions to avoid the spread of infection from one pen to another via their hands, clothing or footwear.

### Vehicle driver

The driver is responsible for the welfare of greyhounds in the vehicle during transportation.

Any driver for the establishment must be experienced or adequately trained to carry out the following tasks:

* assessment, handling, and care of the greyhounds being transported;
* ensure the transport vehicle and related equipment is designed to meet the requirements under this Code;
* ensure the hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicle and the cages and equipment used within the transport vehicle is maintained, including routine cleaning and disinfection;
* clean and disinfect the cargo area of the transport vehicle according to infectious disease protocol after a greyhound showing signs of infectious disease has been removed, before the next greyhound is placed in the cargo area;
* inspect greyhounds at least every two hours during transportation, or more frequently on the advice of a veterinary practitioner and provide water at each interval;
* clean cages used within the transport vehicle when necessary;
* ensure cages are secured within the transport vehicle; and
* monitor the temperature within the transport vehicle to ensure it does not exceed a level that may compromise the health or wellbeing of any greyhound being transported.

Vehicle drivers must keep the transportation time of Greyhounds to a minimum, taking into consideration the most direct route available to the driver between the location of collection of the Greyhound and the ultimate destination.

The vehicle driver is responsible for maintaining a trip log book for all journeys longer than two hours.

### Veterinary practitioner

A written agreement must be entered into between a proprietor and veterinary practitioner who has relevant experience in greyhound health and management. This agreement must include arrangements for:

* the use of the veterinary practitioner’s facilities for the treatment of greyhounds;
* the supervision of greyhounds in isolation housing at the establishment or the provision of isolation housing at the veterinary practitioner’s facilities if the establishment does not have separate isolation housing;
* advice and development of the health management plan for the establishment;
* providing vaccination certificates and up to date health details for the GRV treatment record book of each greyhound prior to that greyhound being transferred or sold;
* humane euthanasia in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.2 of this Code;
* providing veterinary assistance for the establishment at all times and being able to provide veterinary attention to greyhounds at the establishment within six hours of notification that veterinary attention is required; and
* 24 hour contact or treatment or provision of services through an alternative 24 hour emergency practice.

Where the veterinary practitioner is also the proprietor or owner of the establishment, the establishment must undergo an annual inspection by an independent veterinary practitioner specialising in small animals. The inspection must review the health management plan for the establishment

and the vaccination and health status of each greyhound at the establishment. The outcome of the review must be signed by both the proprietor or owner of the establishment and the independent veterinary practitioner and submitted promptly to GRV.

Greyhounds housed for veterinary attention or isolation at a veterinary practice and under direct veterinary supervision may be housed in pens or cages contrary to this Code.

### Mandatory training and education

All GRV participants in charge of and owners of racing greyhounds must complete minimum mandatory training and education as required for registration with GRV. Evidence that formal training has been completed must be available upon request by an authorised officer.

### Staff health

Potential health risks for humans exist when working with animals. Greyhounds can harbour diseasecausing organisms, which can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses).

To protect staff health, a list of common zoonoses including hydatids must be prominently displayed throughout the establishment and staff must be educated in the prevention of zoonoses.

Staff health must be protected through the provision of, or access to:

* an establishment induction session upon commencing work which provides information and training on health, hygiene and safety;
* tetanus immunisation;
* personal protective clothing and equipment (such as boots, coats, overalls, disposable gloves etc.);
* hot and cold hand washing facilities with soap; and
* hand disinfectant positioned at various locations around the establishment to allow staff to disinfect their hands between attending to different greyhounds.

## Establishment operation

### Health management plan

Every establishment must have a health management plan in place which is reviewed annually. Health management plans must be formulated in

consultation with a veterinary practitioner. Health management plans must be signed by a veterinary practitioner on an annual basis or whenever there is a change in the veterinary practitioner supporting the establishment, whichever is more frequent.

The health management plan must include protocols for:

* assessment of new greyhounds before admission to the establishment;
* the quarantine and movement of greyhounds, including for new greyhounds introduced to the establishment;
* response to an outbreak of infectious disease at the establishment;
* management of isolation housing (where isolation housing is constructed at the establishment);
* hygiene, disinfection and disease prevention;
* vaccination programs;
* external parasite prevention and treatment programs including screening for fleas, ear mites, ticks, and ringworm;
* internal parasite prevention and treatment programs;
* dental management, including gum disease and plaque management;
* oral supplements and injectable substances regimes;
* grooming requirements;
* pest management protocols;
* housing acclimatisation program;
* the provision of an appropriate diet for all greyhounds at the establishment;
* exercise, environmental enrichment and socialisation programs;
* exposure to race day housing, pens or cages;
* intervention and management plans for greyhounds showing signs of stress and/or the development of behavioural stereotypies;
* processes for determining the suitability of breeding greyhounds to continue breeding within the establishment;
* whelping greyhounds;
* assessment programs for the health and welfare of greyhounds being reared for sale or as replacement breeding greyhounds;
* health assessment of greyhounds for sale;
* behavioural and welfare assessments of greyhounds on a daily basis;
* processes for preparing a greyhound for retirement at any stage of its lifecycle;
* processes for long term management of retired greyhounds, including protocols for assessing suitability for rehoming and desexing or euthanasia;
* risk assessments of housing and exercise areas and risk management plans;
* development and display of emergency management plans for both humans and greyhounds including evacuation procedures for the establishment;
* approved methods of euthanasia in emergency situations;
* identifying staff capable of carrying out humane euthanasia in emergency situations in circumstances where the operations manager is unavailable; and
* appropriate disposal of carcasses.

**Note**

Proprietors and operations managers should draft their health management plan prior to consulting their veterinary practitioner. This will reduce the time and cost associated with having the plan approved by a veterinary practitioner.

A checklist for the health management plan and guides for developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) can be f[ound at www.vic.gov.au/pets.](http://www.vic.gov.au/pets)

### Euthanasia

Euthanasia must be performed by barbiturate overdose carried out by a veterinary practitioner, except in emergency situations. Veterinary practitioners must provide the establishment with a Euthanasia Certificate once a greyhound has been euthanased.

In emergency situations, the operations manager or the staff member identified in the health management plan (if the operations manager is unavailable)

may carry out humane euthanasia but only under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

The veterinary practitioner providing approval to carry out euthanasia in an emergency situation must include a statement in the Euthanasia Certificate that permission was given, who permission was given to, when permission was given, why permission was given, and the approved form of euthanasia.

Any method of emergency euthanasia must be humane. Blunt force trauma is not considered a humane form of euthanasia for greyhounds.

Euthanasia must be performed in an area that is separate from any greyhound housing area at the establishment and must not be carried out in view of any other greyhounds.

Euthanasia must not be performed in view of the general public.

GRV must be notified of an intention to euthanase any GRV greyhound where euthanasia is not on medical grounds, at least 14 days prior to carrying out the euthanasia by providing a Notice of Intent to Euthanase to GRV

All owners must provide the Euthanasia Certificate (as outlined above) to GRV once euthanasia has been carried out.

Puppies 8 weeks and under requiring euthanasia must be euthanased by intraperitoneal (into the body cavity) or intravenous injection overdose of barbiturate by a veterinary practitioner as per the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.

**Note**

In an emergency situation, the establishment proprietor, owner, operations manager or greyhound attendant must attempt to contact the veterinary practitioner by phone and request advice. If the veterinary practitioner is unable to provide veterinary attention within a reasonable amount of time, or provide suggestions with respect to alternative care and both the veterinary practitioner and proprietor/owner/operations manager/greyhound attendant agree that immediate euthanasia is required, the operations manager or the staff member identified in the health management plan may carry out that euthanasia in

a manner agreed to by the veterinary practitioner. A template euthanasia certificate and a template notice of intent to euthanase is available at [www.vic.gov.au/pets.](http://www.vic.gov.au/pets)

### Greyhound transport vehicle

All transport vehicles or trailers used to transport greyhounds must;

* be maintained at a temperature of between 10ºC and 32ºC at all times;
* be constructed of materials and a design that allows for effective cleaning and disinfection; and
* transport trailers must have a secure means of attaching to a vehicle so as to prevent separation during travelling.

Where one or more greyhounds are being transported, vehicles or trailers used for transport must have provision for the greyhound/s to be physically separated and restrained or individually enclosed by compartment or cage that is:

* of a design that is escape-proof, prevents the protrusion of head and/or limbs of any greyhound and prevents the risk of entanglement of collars and leads;
* the compartments or cages should be securely fixed to the vehicle and allow enough space for greyhounds to sit, lie down and stand in a natural position without making contact with overhead structures;
* weatherproof with adequate ventilation, both when the vehicle is stationary and in motion; and
* constructed of materials and a design that allows for effective cleaning and disinfection.

Other than in cases of exceptional circumstances or emergency, greyhounds must be physically separated and individually restrained during transport or transported in separate compartments or cages

Greyhounds must not be transported in the cabin of transport vehicles or in a transport trailer unless restrained or enclosed in a compartment or cage that complies with the provisions outlined above. A greyhound MUST NOT be transported in the boot of a sedan.

Greyhounds must not be left unattended in a vehicle or trailer for any extended period. During transportation, greyhounds must be inspected at least every two hours or more frequently on the advice of a veterinary practitioner, and

provided with water at each inspection. Greyhounds must not be able to distract the driver or cause injury to other greyhounds or occupants in the vehicle in the event of an accident.

Greyhounds must not be housed in a transport vehicle or at an event in a transport cage for more than 24 hours, except in exceptional circumstances where they may be housed for up to 48 hours.

All greyhounds housed in transport cages must be removed from the cage every two hours during daylight hours to exercise and toilet. All greyhounds housed

in transport cages must be exercised at least four times within a 12 hour period during daylight hours for at least 20 minutes at each exercise interval.

Confinement in a transport cage under any other circumstances must only be at the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

### Visitor facilities

Visitors to the establishment must be provided with access to hot and cold water hand washing facilities with soap or hand sanitising stations.

Biosecurity policies within any establishment should be adhered to. This includes the provision of foot baths and/or boot covers for visitors entering the establishment who have been in contact with other animals.

### Security

Establishments must securely confine all greyhounds within the property, preventing their escape. Establishments must also be protected from entry of unwanted animals by the construction of suitable perimeter fencing as outlined in this Code.

Kennel areas must be able to be securely locked.

Each individual kennel, cage, or pen must be fitted with a secure closing device that can only be opened by humans.

All security methods must allow for ready access to greyhounds and exit of staff and greyhounds from the establishment in the event of an emergency.

There must be a minimum of two physical barriers between greyhounds and escape. Where greyhounds are housed in kennels, the door of a greyhound’s pen is considered the first barrier to escape.

All designs and materials must ensure the security of the establishment.

Greyhounds must be safe from attack, stress or injury from other greyhounds, animals or people.

## Records

The proprietor of the establishment must ensure that the records detailed below are collected and kept for a period of no less than 12 months after a greyhound has left the establishment.

If the establishment ceases to operate, all greyhound health and sale records must be retained by the proprietor for no less than five years.

All records must be kept at the establishment in a location that allows for physical inspection by an authorised officer immediately upon request.

All records must be produced for physical inspection by an authorised officer immediately upon request, either electronically or in hard copy.

### Establishment records

Greyhound establishment records must include the following:

* GRV participant registration number (where applicable);
* copies of all standard operating procedures for the establishment;
* emergency management and evacuation plans for the establishment including site maps;
* the establishment’s insect, ectoparasite and vertebrate pest management program and evidence that the program is being maintained and adhered to;
* a complete and up to date list of staff working at the establishment including the following details for each individual staff member - contact details, experience and/or qualifications, training history and tetanus immunisation status or exemption certificate where appropriate;
* a complete copy of all records relating to staffing on a daily basis, for example a daily staff roster (where appropriate);
* the current health management plan for the establishment;
* the written agreement/s with the veterinary practitioner and complete contact details of both the general veterinary practitioner and emergency veterinary practitioner (where different);
* other contracts and contact details of external greyhound service providers. For example, feed suppliers, meat suppliers, pest controllers, physiotherapists, chiropractors etc.;
* all records related to selling, transferring (both temporary and permanent) and/or giving away of greyhounds to and from the establishment;
* a complete copy of the sale and transfer health and management statement by the operations manager (within the GRV treatment record book);
* a copy of the veterinary practitioner’s general health certificate for greyhounds sold, transferred or given away to a new owner;
* a copy of literature provided to a new owner regarding the care of a greyhound where sold, Transferred or given away to a member of the public that is not a GRV participant;
* all records relating to the purchase, acquisition or transfer of greyhounds into the establishment, including the contact details of the previous owner and operations manager, the greyhound’s previous location, microchip number, copies of transfer of ownership papers (where applicable) and up to date GRV treatment record book at time of transfer to the establishment; and
* a copy of the transport vehicle/s log book.

Where staff are employed by the establishment, a complete set of daily staffing rosters must be kept for a period of no less than 12 months.

### GRV treatment record book

All treatment records of any type must include the date and time of the treatment administered, person prescribing the treatment, dosage and details of treatment, and any relevant observation of the greyhound during and post treatment. The name and signature of the person administering the treatment must also be recorded.

Records of daily observations, inspections and exercise, in accordance with the requirements of this Code, must be kept for a period of no less than 12 months.

#### Greyhound record files

A Greyhound record file must be established for each individual greyhound at birth and maintained according to the following requirements until the ownership of the greyhound changes or the greyhound is deceased.

All greyhounds must be registered with GRV by seven days of age and allocated a GRV treatment record book, which must be kept up to date at all times and maintained at the establishment where the greyhound is kept. Copies of records of greyhounds sold by or retained by the establishment must be kept for a period of no less than 5 years.

The proprietor of the establishment must ensure that the following details are recorded in the GRV treatment record book and with GRV for each greyhound:

* name of dam, registration details, date of birth and any other relevant details including earbrands;
* name of sire, registration details, date of birth and any other relevant details including earbrands;
* birth date;
* sex and reproductive status (entire or desexed);
* colour;
* earbrands and other distinguishing features;
* service/insemination dates (where applicable);
* whelpings (where applicable);
* litters born (dead or alive, or combination);
* number of puppies per litter and their GRV registration numbers;
* a complete health care and veterinary history including:
	+ vaccination records and matching vaccination certificates;
	+ internal and external parasite control;
	+ heartworm records;
	+ oral supplements and injected substances records; and
	+ administration of any Schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 drugs (by date, time, dose, route of administration, drug name and name of person giving the drug).
	+ name and address of new owner or new care giver (in the case of a transfer);
* date of rehoming to a pound, shelter or member of the public and/or date of euthanasia and disposal;
* health and management statements for all transfers of the greyhound between establishments and owners; and
* disposal, euthanasia and death records including date and method of disposal, cause of death and a copy of the Notice of Intent to Euthanase and Euthanasia Certificate submitted to GRV.

An up to date GRV treatment record book containing current vaccination certificates must be provided for each greyhound before admission for boarding, rearing and/or education and training.

In addition to the records kept in the GRV treatment record book, the following information must be recorded relating to each greyhound admitted for boarding, rearing and/or education and training:

* the name of the owner;
* contact telephone number, address and GRV registration number of the owner or the owner’s authorised representative;
* a description of the greyhound including:
	+ and microchip details;
	+ details of condition on arrival which is to include weight and photo as evidence;
	+ date of admission;
	+ expected date of collection;
	+ details of medical, dietary, bathing and grooming requirements and physical condition;
	+ exercise, enrichment, socialisation and handling history and management statement for that greyhound;
	+ any collars, leads or belongings brought in with the greyhound;
	+ name and contact telephone number of the owner’s veterinary practitioner; and
* any behaviour changes.

Written permission of owner/s must be obtained before housing two or more greyhounds together in a pen during boarding.

#### Individual greyhound identification

The name, description, sex, and microchip number of each greyhound in the establishment must be displayed clearly on every kennel or pen in the form of an identification card.

Each identification card must also indicate whether the greyhounds are receiving additional care and the type of care. For female greyhounds, this includes the number, birthdate, sex and details of offspring in her current litter.

Kennel or pen cards are not required if the greyhound is being housed in a residential premises (a home).

## Husbandry – Management of Greyhounds

This section outlines minimum standards for husbandry management of greyhounds.

### Nutrition

#### Food

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 scientifically balanced to meet the daily requirements for the condition, age and size of the greyhound.

The minimum quantity and nutritional quality of food must be detailed within the health management plan developed in conjunction with, and signed off by, a veterinary practitioner for each greyhound.

Food must be provided in a food receptacle that has been cleaned of all previously uneaten food except where providing food as enrichment in a treat ball or kong, or when providing bones.

Food receptacles must be made of a material that can be cleaned and disinfected and must be designed to prevent food being spilled onto the ground.

Food receptacles must not cause injury to the greyhounds.

Pregnant and lactating greyhounds must be fed from a food receptacle at least twice daily, or fed under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

Puppies from three weeks of age to weaning must be provided with appropriate food in a shallow food receptacle according to the establishment’s health management plan.

Fully weaned puppies less than 16 weeks of age must be fed from a food receptacle a minimum of three times daily with a nutritionally balanced diet and must not be without food for a period of more than 12 hours.

Puppies may share a food receptacle.

Orphaned and pre-weaned puppies must be fed under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

Greyhounds between four and six months of age must be fed a minimum of twice daily with a nutritionally balanced diet from a food receptacle and must not be without food for a period of more than 12 hours.

Greyhounds over the age of 16 weeks must be provided with their own food receptacle.

Feeding raw offal to greyhounds is not recommended, as it is a zoonotic risk to humans. If greyhounds are fed raw offal, it must be part of the establishment’s health management plan and be in conjunction with a complete worming program.

Food must be stored appropriately in sealed containers, which must be vermin proof and refrigerated at less than 4ºC where required. Food storage equipment and areas must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

Food, bones or treats must not be allowed to become rancid, decayed or insect-infested.

The preparation of food must be conducted in hygienic areas that are cleaned and disinfected after food is prepared.

At any time the establishment must hold a minimum of five days’ food supply that is sufficient to feed all greyhounds housed in the establishment and to ensure food is available for the animals in the case of an emergency event such as illness, accident or large scale emergency.

#### Water

Greyhounds must have access to a sufficient supply of fresh clean water at all times. The recommended volume of water required daily is approximately

50 millilitres of water per one kilogram of body weight (for example 1.5 litres per day for a 30 kg greyhound).

This amount may vary depending on a number of factors including health status, environmental temperature, amount of exercise, lactation status, water content of diet, age, etc.

Young puppies, from three weeks of age, must be provided with access to water in a suitable receptacle.

Water receptacles:

* must be non-spillable, made of a material that can be cleaned and disinfected, and of a design that does not cause injury to the greyhounds;
* must hold sufficient water for all greyhounds;
* must be large enough to hold sufficient water for all greyhounds to be able to drink at any one time; and
* for young puppies, must be shallow enough to prevent injury or drowning.

#### Supplements and injectable substances

All supplements and injectable substance regimes, including dosing, must be detailed in the health management plan and GRV treatment record book for each greyhound according to greyhound age and stage of life cycle. The health management plan must be approved annually by a veterinary practitioner.

Any supplements and injectable substances must be individually labelled and kept in their original container or packaging. All supplements and injectable substances must be able to be easily identified.

All expired supplements and injectable substances must be disposed of according to relevant legislative requirements.

* 1. Health care

#### Vaccination and parasite prevention

* + - * under 12 weeks of age

Except where a veterinary practitioner advises and records that treatment would prejudice the greyhound’s health, puppies must be vaccinated against and treated for the following:

* Canine Distemper;
* Infectious Canine Hepatitis;
* Canine Parvovirus;
* Canine Cough (parainfluenza (Type II) and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*); and
* Internal and external parasites (for example worms, fleas and ticks).

All vaccinations must be given in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

First treatment/vaccine must not be given before 10 days of age.

Vaccination certificates, including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required and a record of who administered the treatment, must be signed by a veterinary practitioner at each vaccination and recorded in the greyhound’s GRV treatment record book.

#### Vaccination and parasite prevention

* + - * 12 weeks of age or older

Except where a veterinary practitioner advises and records that treatment would prejudice the greyhound’s health, all greyhounds 12 weeks of age or older must have current vaccination against and treatment for the following:

* Canine Distemper;
* Infectious Canine Hepatitis;
* Canine Parvovirus;
* Canine Cough (parainfluenza (Type II) and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*);
* Heartworm; and
* Internal and external parasites (for example worms, fleas and ticks).

All vaccinations must be given in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.

Any off-label vaccination use must be in accordance with the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association (ASAVA) guidelines.

Vaccination certificates, including dates of next treatment, details of the treatment required and a record of who administered the treatment, must be signed by a veterinary practitioner at each vaccination and recorded in the greyhound’s GRV treatment record book.

An up to date GRV treatment record book containing current vaccination certificates must be produced for each greyhound being kept before admission to an establishment. Vaccination against and testing for heartworm infection is recommended prior to admission or mating.

Greyhounds must be placed on a safe and proven effective worming prevention and flea program with records of such programs kept in the greyhound’s GRV treatment record book.

Isolation housing for isolation of greyhounds suspected of having or diagnosed with an infectious disease must be available either at the establishment where the greyhounds are kept or at veterinary premises.

Greyhounds with illnesses that are not infectious or injuries must be separated, but not necessarily isolated, from other greyhounds where separation will reduce stress in the greyhound.

#### Health checks and treatment plans

All greyhounds, regardless of breeding status, must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner at least annually, or more frequently as directed by a veterinary practitioner.

All greyhounds must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner prior to their first service. Veterinary practitioners must provide a certificate to state that, at the time of examination, the greyhound was suitable to breed.

All breeding females must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner within four weeks prior to each service period and within eight weeks of giving birth, or annually, whichever is more frequent.

Any health issues identified must be recorded in the greyhound’s GRV treatment record book and evidence provided that a treatment plan was devised in conjunction with a veterinary practitioner and implemented and recorded in the greyhound’s GRV treatment record book.

All establishments must have an internal and external parasite control program and screen regularly as per the establishment health management plan.

#### Grooming and other requirements

All greyhounds must be groomed by brushing or bathing, whichever is necessary, at a frequency that ensures coats are kept in good, clean condition.

All greyhounds must have their toenails checked and trimmed at a frequency that prevents overgrowth.

#### Muzzling

Greyhounds are not to be muzzled in housing pens. Basket muzzling during toileting, socialisation and group exercise is acceptable as a means of acclimatising greyhounds to muzzles for racing. However, greyhounds must not be muzzled for more than 30 minutes at a time during these activities.

Barking muzzles must not be used except under strict, documented, direction by a veterinary practitioner. Barking muzzles must not be used for a period

of more than five minutes at a time and no more than twice per day. Barking muzzles prevent drinking and panting which are essential for hydration and temperature regulation.

### Breeding

Breeding mates must not be closely related to one another, such as father- daughter, mother-son, brother-sister, grandfather-granddaughter etc.

#### Heritable defects

All breeders must comply with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (Vic), particularly with respect to the *Code of Practice for the Responsible Breeding of Animals with Heritable Defects that Cause Disease*.

The proprietor or owner of any establishment notified that a greyhound sold by the establishment has been diagnosed by a veterinary practitioner as having a heritable disease or defect, or provided with reasonable evidence of a heritable disease or defect in the greyhound, must stop breeding from the parents of the greyhound until the following have been completed:

* the parents have been tested for the heritable disease or defect, if they are still used for breeding and an acceptable test is available. If an acceptable test is not available, the parents must be assessed by a veterinary practitioner for the heritable disease or defect; and
* existing offspring of those parents still currently residing at the establishment have been tested for the heritable disease or defect, where an acceptable test is available.

If one or both of the parents have the heritable defect, genetic counselling must be obtained from a veterinary practitioner prior to continuing to breed with those greyhounds.

If any offspring have the heritable defect, a sale or euthanasia plan must be developed in conjunction with a veterinary practitioner and all details about the heritable defect and likely outcomes for the greyhounds must be fully disclosed to their owners and any prospective purchasers.

Any greyhounds in the establishment who carry recessive genes for any heritable defect that causes a disease or defect must not be bred together.

#### Breeding males

Male greyhounds must be at least 24 months of age prior to their first service.

A male greyhound must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner prior to first service to assess whether the greyhound is suitable for breeding purposes. Veterinary practitioners must provide a certificate to state that, at the time of examination, the greyhound was suitable to breed.

Male greyhounds must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner at least annually.

If evidence of a heritable defect that causes disease is found in puppies produced by a male greyhound, the male must not continue to breed unless continued breeding is approved by a veterinary practitioner.

**Note**

A male must not be put with more than one female at any one time for natural mating purposes.

#### Breeding females

Female greyhounds must be at least 24 months of age prior to their first service.

A female greyhound must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner prior to first service to assess whether the greyhound is physically mature enough to be bred with. Veterinary practitioners must provide a certificate to state that, at the time of examination, the greyhound is suitable to breed.

A veterinary practitioner must provide a general health check:

* within 4 weeks prior to all subsequent seasons in which the owner intends to service the female and within 8 weeks of giving birth; or
* at least annually, whichever is more frequent.

A female greyhound must have no more than three litters in her lifetime. If a breeder wishes to continue breeding from a female greyhound, the breeder must obtain a recommendation from a veterinary practitioner that the greyhound is suitable to continue to breed beyond three litters and obtain formal approval from GRV. In any event, no more than two additional breeding approvals per female greyhound are permitted under this Code.

If evidence of a heritable defect is found in puppies produced by a female greyhound, the female must not continue to breed unless continued breeding is approved by a veterinary practitioner.

#### Natural Mating

Natural mating pairs must be physically separated from other greyhounds.

Natural mating pairs must be monitored during mating. Dog breeding stands must not be used.

If the female greyhound is being unduly harassed by the male greyhound, she must be removed and the advice of a veterinary practitioner sought:

* if there is a risk of injury to either greyhound; or
* for any other concern.

A male and female greyhound may be housed in a suitably sized pen together for a period of time during mating. After mating, both greyhounds must

be physically separated (that is, placed back in their home pens or other accommodation), assessed for signs of injury, and treatment provided where necessary. Both greyhounds must be returned to their home pens every evening even if mating has not yet occurred.

#### Artificial Insemination

Artificial insemination must be conducted by an artificial insemination technician who is registered in accordance with GRV Rules or by a veterinary practitioner.

Surgical artificial insemination must be conducted by a veterinary practitioner under a general anaesthetic and include appropriate pain relief during and post-surgery. A veterinary practitioner must provide written advice regarding greyhound after-care including exercise post-surgery and during pregnancy.

#### Whelping

By seven days of her due date, a pregnant greyhound must be moved to a specific whelping housing area and/or provided with private accommodation containing a whelping box that complies with this Code.

Exercise, socialisation, enrichment and handling of a pregnant female greyhound during late pregnancy must remain the same as during earlier stages of pregnancy where their health and physical condition allow.

As soon as the greyhound shows signs of whelping, fresh bedding material must be provided and the female greyhound continually monitored until whelping is complete.

If there are any abnormalities observed or concerns for the welfare of the female greyhound or puppies during the whelping process, the advice of a veterinary practitioner must be immediately sought.

After whelping is complete, the female greyhound and her puppies must be monitored six hourly until the puppies are feeding and maternal acceptance has been firmly established.

The whelping area must be completely cleaned and all bedding material changed within 24 hours of the completion of whelping.

Oxytocin must only be administered by a veterinary practitioner.

#### Caesarean section

Caesarean section must only be performed by a veterinary practitioner. Greyhounds undergoing caesarean section must have the procedure performed under general anaesthetic and include appropriate pain relief during and post- surgery.

Appropriate wound care, as directed by a veterinary practitioner, must be provided for greyhounds post-surgery.

A veterinary practitioner must provide written advice regarding greyhound after care including exercise post-surgery.

#### Lactating Greyhounds

Monitoring of lactating greyhounds must include observation of:

* all puppies feeding;
* the greyhound lactating; and
* if applicable, monitoring of caesarean wounds for redness, swelling and discharge.

If puppies do not gain weight, the proprietor must seek the advice of a veterinary practitioner and action taken as directed by the veterinary practitioner.

For the first week post-whelp, greyhounds must be examined twice daily for mastitis and veterinary attention provided immediately upon diagnosis.

Soiled bedding material must be removed and clean bedding material must be provided on a daily basis during lactation.

Lactating greyhounds must:

* be exercised as per Table 1 under Section 6.4 of this Code; and
* have a post-partum health check within eight weeks of whelping.

Puppies must have a health check by a staff member within 12 hours of whelping. Daily handling of puppies must begin within seven days of whelping.

#### Rearing

During rearing, greyhounds must:

* not be permanently separated from their mother before 8 weeks of age, the only exception being when a veterinary practitioner determines that the health of the puppies would be significantly compromised if kept with their mother;
* be registered with GRV before seven days of age and microchipped before three months of age except where microchipping is deemed by a veterinary practitioner to be prejudicial to the health of the greyhound;
* be housed in accordance with Table 3 of this Code;
* be handled, exercised, socialised and trained in accordance with Table 1 and 2 under Sections 6.4 and 6.5 of this Code;
* be exposed to different environments and/or changes to their environment (for example, changes in toys and obstacle items in pens, starting boxes, walking in new environments and introduction to new people) on a weekly basis;
* be provided with exercise options that encourage chasing behaviour such as chasing games;
* be handled at least 30 minutes per day, during the course of normal management;
* be actively monitored when housed together and if fighting, bullying or other adverse welfare outcomes are identified, they must be separated; and
* not be muzzled at any time, except as part of the education process or when in public or under the direction of a veterinary practitioner during treatment for an injury or illness.

From **eight to sixteen weeks of age**, greyhounds must:

* be provided with access to at least 3 different surfaces in their pen or kennel environment (for example, bed and bedding material, concrete, grass, carpet etc.); and
* be taught to wear a collar, walk on a lead and walk by their collar.

From **sixteen weeks of age**, greyhounds must:

* be given at least five hours access per day to an exercise area of at least 20 sqm per greyhound;
* be walked on a lead at least 4 times per week;
* be walked by their collar twice weekly;
* have 2 opportunities per week for ten to fifteen minutes of time isolated from their littermates (in the company of a handler) or complete isolation to acclimatise them to periods of separation from their littermates;
* be given exposure to standard racing housing pens of 3 sqm and race-day cages regularly; and
* be bathed in warm water and towel dried once per month where weather allows.

Puppies under sixteen weeks of age may be housed as a litter where pen sizes meet the minimum space allowance in accordance with Table 3 of this Code.

No more than four compatible greyhounds sixteen weeks to nine months of age can be housed together.

No more than two compatible greyhounds nine months or older can be housed together.

Female greyhounds nine months or older who are showing signs of coming into or are in season must not be housed with male greyhounds nine months or older.

During rearing, it is recommended that greyhounds older than sixteen weeks of age receive exposure to the following as often as possible:

* starting boxes;
* travelling in cars and trailers;
* circular training facilities; and
* race track environments.

From three months before a greyhound moves to pre-education, greyhounds must be provided with a ‘Housing Acclimatisation’ program. The program must:

* provide increased exposure to housing equivalent in size and design to common racing kennels of between 3 sqm and 9 sqm;
* include daily exposure to a racing kennel, for periods of time which increase gradually from zero to six hours per day by the end of the three month period; and
* be incorporated into the health management plan for the establishment.

During the Housing Acclimatisation program each greyhound must be:

* provided with positive reinforcement and enrichment such as toys, bones or other activities; and
* provided with toilet breaks every two to three hours to help build familiarity with race kennel routine.

**Note**

Education and training should be conducted in such a way to promote a positive experience for the greyhound.

#### Education and pre-training

Education is the period of management during which a greyhound transitions to training within the industry. This period is sometimes referred to as ‘breaking- in’. Pre-training is the period of training before the greyhound progresses to full time training.

During education and pre-training, greyhounds must:

* be handled, exercised, socialised and trained in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 of this Code;
* be housed in accordance with Table 3 of this Code;
* be exercised, toileted, handled, socialised and enriched according to the kennel size in which they are kept (see Table 3 of this Code);
* receive a minimum of twice weekly exposure to 30 to 60 minutes of isolation from other greyhounds and humans. This can be part of race crate training or other training activities;
* be provided with exposure to race track environments at least twice prior to moving into training;
* be monitored at least five times per day for signs of stress, poor acclimatisation, and the development of behavioural stereotypies. Appendix 2 of this Code provides a list of common signs of stress and behavioural stereotypies in greyhounds and possible intervention options; and
* not be muzzled in their housing environment except under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

Observations must be recorded daily and used as a management tool for assessing the acclimatisation of the greyhound to its new housing and its readiness for training and racing.

**Management of stress in Greyhounds**

If signs of stress, poor acclimatisation or development of behavioural stereotypies are recorded for more than two consecutive days, the possible source of stress must be identified and action taken to alleviate the stress and reduce the risk of the development of long term behavioural stereotypies. Appendix 2 of this Code provides a list of common signs of stress and behavioural stereotypies and possible intervention options.

If signs of stress identified are related to small race kennel housing (3-9 sqm), the greyhound must be:

* moved to a pen of a minimum of 20 sqm; and
* continually monitored.

If the greyhound shows signs of reduced stress, the greyhound may begin a program of gradual introduction to small pen sizes commencing at a size of 15 sqm, moving to 10 sqm, then 6 sqm and so on. If the greyhound does not show obvious signs of improvement over a period of 2-3 days, a veterinary practitioner must be consulted.

The establishment’s health management plan must include intervention points and management plans for greyhounds showing signs of poor acclimatisation, stress and/or the development of behavioural stereotypies.

Greyhounds during education and pre-training may be housed in kennels, in accordance with Table 3 of this Code.

Greyhounds in education and pre-training may be housed individually or in pairs in appropriately sized pens.

Female greyhounds showing signs of coming into or in season must not be housed, toileted or exercised with male greyhounds nine months or older.

During education and pre-training, greyhounds must receive a minimum of once weekly exposure to:

* starting boxes;
* travelling in cars and trailers;
* circular training facilities;
* straight tracks; and
* lures.

#### Training and Racing

During training and racing, greyhounds must:

* not be housed in kennels of less than 3 sqm in size, in accordance with Table 3 of this Code;
* be handled, exercised, socialised and trained in accordance with Tables 1 and 2 and housed in accordance with Table 3 of this Code;
* not be muzzled in their housing environment except under the direction of a veterinary practitioner;
* be exercised, toileted, handled, socialised and enriched according to the kennel size in which they are kept (see Table 3 of this Code); and
* be monitored at least five times per day for signs of stress and the development of behavioural stereotypies (see Appendix 2 of this Code).

The establishment’s health management plan must include intervention points and management plans for greyhounds showing signs of stress and/or the development of behavioural stereotypies.

Where greyhounds are being housed in kennels which are the minimum size allowable under this Code and are showing signs of ongoing stress or the development of behavioural stereotypies, they must be assessed by a veterinary practitioner in accordance with the establishment’s health management

plan. This may include returning the greyhound to pre-training or moving the greyhound to a larger kennel. Muzzling or other physical restriction of these behaviours is not considered an acceptable long term management tool.

#### Preparing a greyhound for retirement or rehoming

**Preparation Weeks 1 to 4**

Once a greyhound has been deemed unsuitable for racing or breeding, whether this is during education (breaking-in) or at a later stage in the greyhound’s racing career, the greyhound must be spelled for at least four weeks unless otherwise approved by GRV. During this four week period:

* diet must be adjusted, in accordance with the health management plan, to increase weight;
* exercise regime must be slowly decreased; and
* the greyhound must be transitioned to housing of at least 15 sqm in area.

If a greyhound is deemed unsuitable for racing or breeding prior to education and pre-training, they are not required to complete the spelling period.

Minimum socialisation, handling, and enrichment requirements must be met during this time (see Tables 1 and 2 at Sections 6.4 and 6.5 of this Code).

**Preparation Weeks 5 and 6**

Once the four week spelling has concluded, greyhounds must be moved to an outdoor pen or to within a home. Preferably, greyhounds should be housed in a family environment and kept in the backyard; however this may not be possible due to inadequate fencing and or the presence of small dogs and children.

During preparation weeks 5 and 6, greyhounds must be:

* walked for 20 minutes per day in public, muzzled and on a lead at all times;
* provided with exposure to different flooring surfaces and people in a non-training or racing setting daily; and
* provided with daily periods of isolation from other greyhounds and humans, starting with 30 minutes and gradually increasing to three to four hours in duration.

During Week 6, greyhounds may be given exposure to larger dogs (not greyhounds) on a lead in a public setting.

**Preparation Week 7 and onwards**

Greyhounds must be walked for 20 minutes per day in public, muzzled and on a lead. Opportunities for socialisation of the greyhound with other breeds is encouraged.

Behaviour of greyhounds being introduced to new environments, people, and animals must be monitored and the interaction immediately ceased if the greyhound shows signs of fear, predatory or aggressive behaviour including barking, lunging, growling, snapping, stalking, shaking, cowering and freezing.

Professional veterinary support or support from GRV must be sought if the greyhound continues to show excessive fear behaviours, aggressive, or predatory behaviours towards small dogs and/or other animals.

**Rehoming without preparation**

Where a new home has been found for a greyhound, but the greyhound has not completed the minimum seven week preparation period, the greyhound may be rehomed if accompanied by a greyhound rehoming statement outlining the housing, feeding and exercise regime of the greyhound for the previous three months. A statement from the trainer about the health and behaviour of the greyhound at the time of adoption is also required.

The new owner must also sign a greyhound adoption declaration that states they understand that preparation for rehoming has not been completed, the greyhound may require a period of retraining, and that the greyhound must be muzzled and on a lead at all times when in public.

Both the new owner and previous carer must sign the rehoming statement and a copy of the statement and the greyhound adoption declaration must be provided to GRV within four days.

#### Retirement and rehoming of greyhounds

When a greyhound is no longer considered suitable for racing or breeding and is suitable for rehoming, every effort must be made to rehome that greyhound to an appropriate home. Retirement and rehoming may occur at any stage during the greyhound’s life – from puppy to adult greyhound.

All retired greyhounds must be:

* rehomed to a suitable home — where health and temperament of the greyhound have been assessed as suitable for rehoming; or
* surrendered to a registered pound or shelter or a rescue group or community foster care network; or
* kept as a pet; or
* when dictated by health or behaviour problems or when an acceptable home is unable to be found, euthanased by a veterinary practitioner in accordance with the acceptable procedures set out in Section 4.2, that is by injection of barbiturate overdose.

Greyhounds being rehomed to a member of the public or a rescue organisation/ community foster care network, must be desexed prior to moving to their new home. GRV must be notified of the name, address, local government area, phone number and any other relevant contact details of the new owner (including pound or shelter) in the format approved by GRV. GRV is required to notify the appropriate local council that a greyhound has been retired into the community. The new owner must be provided with information about their legal obligations under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Vic).

GRV must be notified of an intention to euthanase a greyhound at least 14 days prior to carrying out the euthanasia, where it is not being undertaken on medical grounds (Notice of Intent to Euthanase).

* 1. Exercise, training and enrichment

All greyhounds must be provided with a minimum amount of daily exercise and enrichment.

When being used by greyhounds, treadmills must be supervised at all times by a staff member.

Greyhounds must not be exercised in any way attached to a motorised vehicle.

Exercise within the housing area may only occur where the housing area has an additional 20 sqm of area per greyhound. For litters under 16 weeks of age, an additional in-pen exercise area must be a minimum size of 20 sqm.

**Table 1. Exercise and enrichment for greyhounds**

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| **Category** | **Exercise and training requirements** | **Environmental enrichment requirements** |
| Puppies 0–4 weeks | Normal movement within the whelping box and mother’s pen area. | Must be provided with a variety of different surfaces within the enclosure that expose the puppies to different textures (for example, hard floors, soft bedding, newspaper, artificial grass, turf, etc.). |
| Puppies 4–8 weeks | Normal movement and play within the mother’s pen area.Can include playing with toys and interaction with humans. | Must be provided with at least three different surfaces within the enclosure that expose the puppies to different textures (for example, hard floors, soft bedding, newspaper, artificial grass, turf etc.).Must provide a variety of toys within the enclosure to develop motor skills and play behaviour.Must rotate the toys on a weekly basis. |
| Puppies 8–16 weeks | Must provide a minimum 20 minutes run or play time daily within a secure area outside of the primary greyhound housing area.Exercise and training includes being taught to:* wear a collar;
* walk on a lead;
* walk by their collar; and
* play chasing games.
 | Must be provided with at least three different surfaces within the enclosure that expose the puppies to different textures (for example, hard floors, soft bedding, newspaper, artificial grass, turf, crate training etc.).Must provide a variety of toys within the enclosure to develop motor skills and play behaviour.Must rotate the toys on a weekly basis.Must be exposed to different environments and/or changes to their environment (for example, changes in toys and obstacle items in pens, starting boxes, walking in new environments, introduction to new people or environments) on a weekly basis. |

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| **Category** | **Exercise and training requirements** | **Environmental enrichment requirements** |
| Rearing(16 weeks +) | Must have access to a minimum of five hours of exercise in an area of a minimum size of 20 sqm per greyhound.Must have daily exposure to 15 minutes of training per day.Training includes:* walked on a lead at least four times per week;
* walked by their collar twice weekly;
* run or free play in an exercise pen or area outside of normal housing; and
* playing chasing games with balls or other suitable objects.
 | Must provide toys (for example, rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys etc.) and rotate toys weekly.Must have two opportunities per week for 10-15 minutes of time isolated from their littermates (in the company of a human) to acclimatise them to periods of separation from their littermates.Must be given exposure to standard racing housing pens and race-day cages regularly.Must be bathed in warm water and towel dried once per month where weather allows.May also provide food dispensing toys that encourage foraging. Examples include: treat balls, stuffed kongs, frozen food, bones. |
| Pre-training, training and racing | Must have a minimum of 15 minutes exercise twice daily in the form oftraining, free play exercise, walking on a lead or racing.Free play exercise must occur off lead and in an area of a minimum of 20 sqm per greyhound.Note: race-day and post- race day exercise is not required if the greyhound requires resting. | Must provide chew toys (for example, rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, kong, bones etc.) rotated weekly.Must receive a minimum of once weekly exposure to starting boxes, travellingin cars and trailers, circular training facilities, straight tracks, and lures or race-day cages.Must be toileted in accordance with Table 3 under Section 6.6.7 of this Code. |

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| **Category** | **Exercise and training requirements** | **Environmental enrichment requirements** |
| Pregnant females | Must be walked on a lead or exercised for a minimum of 30 minutes or two 15 minute sessionsdaily or must have access to 20 sqm of exercise space for a minimum of four hours a day.Exercise may include on- lead exercise or off-leash in a secure fenced area being directly monitored and supervised.Exercise modifications must be under the direction of a veterinary practitioner. | Must provide chew toys (for example, rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, kong, bones etc.) rotated weekly.Must be toileted in accordance with Table 3 under Section 6.6.7 of this Code. |
| Lactating females | Must be walked on a lead for a minimum of 20 minutes from seven days post-whelping.Exercise may include on- lead exercise or off-leash in a secure fenced area being directly monitored or supervised.Exercise modifications must be under the direction of a veterinary practitioner. | Must provide chew toys (for example, rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, kong, bones etc.) rotated weekly.Must be toileted in accordance with Table 3 under Section 6.6.7 of this Code. |
| Spelling | Must provide gentle exercise for a minimum 15 minutes twice daily in an area containing natural daylight. | Must provide chew toys (for example, rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, kong, bones etc.) rotated weekly.Must be toileted in accordance with Table 3 under Section 6.6.7 of this Code. |

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| **Category** | **Exercise and training requirements** | **Environmental enrichment requirements** |
| Retirement | Must provide gentle exercise for a minimum 15 minutes twice daily in an area containing natural daylight.Must be walked on a lead for a minimum of20 minutes daily. | Must provide chew toys (for example, rope toys, squeaky toys, rubber toys, kong, bones etc.) rotated weekly.Must be toileted in accordance with Table 3 under Section 6.6.7 of this Code. |
| Dogs and puppies who are injured, ill, or recovering from ailment or surgery | Under guidance of veterinary practitioner. | Under guidance of veterinary practitioner. |

### Socialisation and handling

The health management plan for the establishment must detail socialisation and handling programs for all greyhounds at all stages in the establishment. Table 2 below provides minimum requirements for those socialisation and handling programs.

Socialisation can be accomplished during exercise, training and handling periods.

Minimum handling time periods are considered cumulative during the day and include normal handling as a result of cleaning, feeding, exercise and training regimes.

**Table 2. Socialisation and handling for greyhounds**

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| **Category** | **Socialisation** | **Handling** |
| Puppies 0–4 weeks | Must include exposure to humans through daily handling.Must remain with mother and other littermates unless under advice of a veterinary practitioner. | Must include five minutes of human handling per puppy daily from seven days of age. |
| Orphaned puppies 0–4 weeks | Must include exposure to humans through daily handling.Must remain with other littermates where possible, unless under advice of a veterinary practitioner. | Handling of orphaned puppies outside of normal feeding and cleaning must be conducted under the direction of a veterinary practitioner. |
| Puppies 4–8 weeks | Must include exposure to humans through daily handling and interactive play using toys.Must not be permanently removed from mother and other littermates until eight weeks of age unless under advice of a veterinary practitioner.Where female greyhounds are exhibiting signs of intolerance towards their puppies, prior to eight weeks of age, the litter and mother must be moved to pen at least 20 sqm greater in area. | Must consist of a minimum of 30 minutes human handling perlitter daily including handling of all members of the litter. |

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| **Category** | **Socialisation** | **Handling** |
| Puppies 8–16 weeks | Must include exposure to humans through daily handling and interactive play using toys.May include exposure to a variety of other vaccinated dogs that are socially compatible where practical and microchipped. | Must consist of a minimum of 30 minutes human handling per puppy daily. |
| Greyhounds (16 weeks +) | Must include exposure to humans through daily handling and positiveinteractions (such as play time, training, exercise) outside of daily cleaning and feeding routine.Must include play, exercise, training, toileting time with a variety of other vaccinated greyhounds that are socially compatible. | Must consist of a minimum of 30 minutes human handling per greyhound daily. |
| Greyhounds and puppies who are injured, ill, or recovering from ailment or surgery | Under guidance of a veterinary practitioner. | Under guidance of veterinary practitioner. |

### Facilities

This section outlines the minimum housing requirements for keeping greyhounds.

Emergency evacuation procedures must be displayed in multiple locations in and near greyhound housing areas. For hobby establishments, this may be near the front door of a place of residence or near the kennel areas.

Facilities must have appropriate fire extinguishers or other fire protection.

#### Disinfection and hygiene

Maintenance of hygiene in a greyhound establishment will prevent build-up of disease-causing organisms including bacteria, viruses and parasitic worm eggs.

The greyhound establishment must be clean and hygienic at all times.

All pens and kennels used to house greyhounds must be cleaned out at least once per day (or more often as required) by hosing or other appropriate means.

All faeces, used bedding material and uneaten food must be removed prior to cleaning.

Uneaten food must be placed in a waste disposal device.

Where hosing is the preferred method of cleaning, greyhounds must be removed from the housing prior to hosing and then returned to the housing once cleaning is complete.

Disinfection of pens, using hospital or veterinary grade disinfectants, must be carried out once every seven days and:

* prior to the introduction of a new greyhound
* prior to whelping; and
* upon the removal of puppies.

Manufacturer’s instructions for the use of these agents must be followed.

All equipment, gear and appliances must be cleaned and disinfected weekly, including hydrobaths and leads.

All coats, blankets and bedding material must be washed weekly or when a greyhound is moved to a new pen, whichever is more frequent.

All watering, feeding receptacles and utensils must be rinsed daily and washed in hot soapy water or in a dishwasher at least once per week to ensure bowls are clean and free of food, mould, etc. Watering and feeding utensils must be disinfected if the greyhound using them is diagnosed with a disease or internal parasite infection before being used to feed or water another greyhound.

Enrichment toys must be washed in hot soapy water at least once per week or more often if soiled and disinfected when moved between litters.

Dishwashers are suitable for disinfection of water and feeding utensils, toys and washable enrichment items at a temperature of 65ºC or above using the appropriate dishwashing detergent in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Utensils must be rinsed after disinfection to avoid poisoning.

The bedding areas must be completely dry prior to returning greyhounds.

Disposable bedding material, food containers, and general waste from the establishment must be placed in a waste disposal device.

Waste disposal must be in accordance with the requirements of the appropriate statutory authority.

Use of a trade waste service for collection and disposal of wastes is preferable.

Wastes must not be incinerated unless the incinerator is registered with the appropriate authority.

Establishments must have an adequate water supply and must be sewered, on a septic system, or have some other adequate method of disposing of faeces approved by the appropriate authority.

Open pits for collecting run off from drains must not be used.

Pests including fleas, ticks, flies, mosquitoes and rodents must be effectively controlled at the establishment.

Protocols to effectively manage these pests must be included in the establishment’s health management plan.

Chemicals used for pest control must be commercially available and registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and must be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Pest traps used must be in accordance with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (Vic) and Regulations.

Material Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals used at the establishment, as noted in the establishment’s health management plan, must be kept on site and made available to an authorised officer on request.

#### Isolation housing

All establishments must provide an area for isolation of greyhounds suspected of having an infectious disease or must have a written agreement with a veterinary practitioner to provide isolation housing off site at a veterinary practice.

Isolation housing within the establishment must be physically separated by an impervious barrier or a distance of at least ten metres from other greyhound housing areas at the establishment.

Pen items, such as bedding materials, food and water utensils, enrichment items etc. from isolation areas must remain solely for use in isolation areas and not be used in other areas of the establishment.

Drainage must not run from isolation areas to or through other greyhound housing areas.

Greyhounds in isolation must be:

* maintained in an area approved in the greyhound health management plan with particular reference to the area’s airflow, workflow and pen design; and
* under the supervision of a veterinary practitioner and their fate regularly reviewed in consultation with a veterinary practitioner.

#### Tethering

Greyhounds may only be tethered for temporary, short-term restraint under supervision. Greyhounds must not be permanently tethered or tethered as a form of long-term containment or housing at any time.

#### Perimeter property fencing

Perimeter fencing must be constructed around the housing and exercise areas at the establishment.

Perimeter fences must provide a second barrier for escape from the establishment but must also provide protection from the entry of unwanted people or animals.

There must be a minimum of two barriers between greyhound and escape. Perimeter fences must:

* be constructed in a manner to prevent greyhounds escaping from the establishment;
* be a minimum height of 1.5 metres except where 1.8 meters is required under planning requirements; and
* must be constructed of:
	+ brick, concrete, timber, iron or similar solid material; or
	+ chain mesh manufactured from 3.15 mm wire to form a uniform 50 mm mesh or 4 mm weld mesh wire with a maximum mesh spacing of 50 mm; or
	+ dog wire; and
* must be maintained in a manner which prevents a greyhound from being able to dig out.

#### Construction of housing pens and yards

Greyhound pens and yards must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that ensures the good health and well-being of the greyhounds, while preventing escape of greyhounds or injury to humans.

Fencing for pens and yards must be a minimum height of 1.5 m and maintained in an escape proof condition, with wire mesh hole size not exceeding 75 mm x 50 mm.

Fencing for puppy yards or pens (puppies less than eight weeks of age) should not exceed a wire mesh hole size of 50 mm x 50 mm.

Fencing must not allow for contact between greyhounds in adjoining pens or yards, or over the top of the fence.

Fencing must be maintained in a manner which prevents a greyhound from being able to dig out and must have self-locking gates or doors.

**Weatherproof area**

All outdoor housing pens and yards must provide 3 sqm of weather proof area (referred to as an outdoor kennel area) per greyhound housed over 16 weeks of age which contains raised sleeping areas.

The flooring of this area must:

* be impervious to liquids to assist cleaning, disinfection and drainage;
* have solid walls; and
* not be constructed of wire.

Materials should be selected for ease of maintenance and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity.

Where impervious materials capable of conducting heat are utilised, adequate insulation or approved heating or cooling must be incorporated in the ceiling and north and west facing walls to minimise heat conduction.

Each greyhound older than 16 weeks of age must be provided with a separate bed or sufficient bedding material so that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time.

Sleeping areas must contain:

* beds protected from the weather (wind, rain, sun and extremes of climate), vermin and an area safe from harassment by other animals;
* beds that are not predominantly made of concrete or metal;
* beds that are raised off the ground; and
* soft, warm bedding material that is changed weekly or more often if required.

Bedding material must be able to be kept dry at all times and housing must be cleaned daily and disinfected weekly.

The floor of the remaining pen or yard area may be made from any material (except wire), but must be easily cleaned of faeces, old food, etc. This area must not be allowed to become infested with parasites.

The entire pen or yard floor must not be allowed to remain muddy or so

dusty that the greyhounds are likely to suffer, or are suffering, from respiratory or eye conditions.

This area must be drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

#### Construction of indoor kennel facilities

All indoor pens must provide the greyhounds with continuous access to natural daylight during the day. Temperature, humidity and ventilation must be managed.

Pen gates must be self-locking and constructed in a manner to prevent greyhounds escaping.

Sleeping areas must have solid partitions to a height of 1.5 m on three sides. Sleeping areas may have a roof but the roof height must be a minimum of

1.5 m off the floor.

Pens may be separated by solid partitions, galvanised chain wire or weld mesh wire dividers with hole size not exceeding 50 mm x 75 mm to prevent contact between greyhounds in neighbouring pens.

The pens and flooring of the pens must be of a design that will not cause injury to the greyhound.

The internal surfaces of the external walls of kennel buildings must be constructed of impervious, solid, washable materials to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.

Beds must be raised off the floor and of sufficient size to allow the greyhound to lay down completely stretched out.

Bedding materials must be selected for ease of maintenance and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity.

Ventilation must be adequate to keep housing areas free of dampness, noxious odours and draughts.

Fully enclosed kennel areas must:

* have an air change rate of 8-12 changes per hour to prevent the build-up of foul odours; and
* have ventilation devices that avoid draughts and distribute fresh air evenly to all of the housing areas.

Where forced ventilation is the only form of air, all of the following are required:

* air recirculation units incorporating effective air cleaning and filtration to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals;
* a back-up and alarm system must be maintained in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation and temperature control mechanisms; and
* temperature must be maintained in the range of 10-32ºC.

#### Minimum housing requirements

A litter may be housed together until the puppies are 16 weeks of age.

A maximum of four adolescent greyhounds between the ages of 16 weeks to 9 months may be housed together, however the proprietor is responsible for ensuring greyhounds are protected from harassment or injury by others in the pen.

Puppies housed together must be the same age.

Establishments may house a maximum of two greyhounds, nine months or older, together. Female greyhounds near or in season must not be housed with entire male greyhounds.

All housing and exercise areas must be kept in a clean and hygienic condition and must be cleaned of faeces, uneaten food and soiled bedding material daily.

Female greyhounds within seven days of whelping and female greyhounds with litters under eight weeks of age must be housed in pens with a minimum area of 15 sqm.

Greyhounds must not be housed in a transport vehicle or at an event in a transport cage for more than 24 hours, except in exceptional circumstances when they may be housed for up to 48 hours. All greyhounds housed in transport cages must be removed from the cage every two hours during daylight hours to exercise and toilet. All greyhounds housed in transport cages must be exercised at least four times within a 12 hour period during daylight hours for at least 20 minutes at each exercise interval.

Confinement in a transport cage under any other circumstances must be under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

Exercise areas may be incorporated into housing where each greyhound 16 weeks or older is provided with a minimum of an additional 20 sqm per greyhound to the minimum housing requirement.

The identification card of each greyhound housed in each pen must be clearly displayed on the pen.

**Table 3. Minimum pen sizes for indoor and outdoor housing**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Enclosure area for the first greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Minimum width in metres (m)** | **Additional dimensions for second greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Conditions of housing** |
| 3 sqm up to 9 sqm | 1.2 m if greyhound is equalto or less than 70 cm tall at the shoulder.1.5 m if greyhound is greater than 70 cm tall at the shoulder. | Single greyhound housing only.Retired greyhounds must not be housed in this kennel size.Greyhounds less than 12 months of age must not be housed in less than 10 sqm kennel for more than three hours per day. | Greyhounds must have a minimum of:* five breaks per day consisting of toilet and exercise. Each break from the pen must be a minimum of 15 minutes in duration; and
* 30 minutes exercise daily – can be split into 2 x 15 minute sessions.

**Note**: on days when the greyhound is racing and the day following a race, there are no requirements to exercise the greyhound. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Enclosure area for the first greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Minimum width in metres (m)** | **Additional dimensions for second greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Conditions of housing** |
|  |  |  | Exercise areas incorporated into or made adjacent to housing pens must have a minimum additional area of 20 sqm per greyhound.Breeding greyhounds must have access to 20 sqm exercise area for a minimum of five hours per day.Where greyhounds are being housed in minimum kennel sizes and showing signs of ongoing stress or behavioural stereotypies, they must be assessed by a veterinary practitioner and management plans implemented, which consider returning the greyhound to pre-training or moving the greyhound to a larger kennel. Muzzling or other physical restrictions of these behaviours are not to be used.Greyhounds must be monitored at least five times per day for signs of stress and the development of behavioural stereotypies.The establishment’s health management plan must include intervention points and management plans for animals showing signs of stress and or development of behaviouralstereotypies. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Enclosure area for the first greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Minimum width in metres (m)** | **Additional dimensions for second greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Conditions of housing** |
|  |  |  | If sign of stress are identified, the greyhound must be moved back to a minimum 20 sqm kennel. If improvement is achieved, the greyhound may be gradually introduced to kennels the size of 15 sqm, then 10 sqm then 6 sqm then 3 sqm.If the greyhound does not improve, an AnimalBehaviourist or Veterinary Behaviourist is to be consulted. |
| From 9 sqm up to 15 sqm | 2.4 m | 10 sqm per greyhound (maximum of 2 greyhounds).Retired greyhounds must not be housed in this kennel size.If housing two greyhounds, minimum of 20 sqm is required. | Greyhounds must have a minimum of:* five breaks per day consisting of toilet and exercise. Each break from the pen must be a minimum of 15 minutes in duration; and
* 30 minutes exercise daily – can be split into 2 x 15 minute sessions.

Note: on days when the greyhound is racing and the day following a race, there are no requirements to exercise the greyhound.Exercise areas incorporated into or made adjacent to housing pens must have a minimum additional area of 20 sqm per greyhound.Breeding greyhounds must have access to 20 sqm exercise area for a minimum of five hours per day. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Enclosure area for the first greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Minimum width in metres (m)** | **Additional dimensions for second greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Conditions of housing** |
|  |  |  | Greyhounds must be monitored at least five times per day for signs of stress and the development of behavioural stereotypies.The establishment’s health management plan must include intervention points and management plans for animals showing signs of stress and or development of behavioural stereotypies.If sign of stress are identified, the greyhound must be moved back to a minimum 20 sqm kennel. If improvement is achieved, the greyhound may be gradually introduced to kennels the size of 15 sqm, then 10 sqm then 6 sqm then3 sqm. If the greyhound does not improve, an Animal Behaviourist or VeterinaryBehaviourist is to be consulted. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Enclosure area for the first greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Minimum width in metres (m)** | **Additional dimensions for second greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Conditions of housing** |
| From 15 sqm up to 20 sqm | 2.4 m | 10 sqm per greyhound (maximum of two greyhounds).If housing two greyhounds a minimum of 25 sqm isrequired, if three greyhounds the minimum is35 sqm.Housing one female greyhound and her litter up to eight weeks of age requires no additional space.Housing one female greyhound and her litter8-16 weeks of age requires additional 15 sqm of space.Housing of a litter of less than 10 puppies at8-16 weeks of age requires no additionalspace. For every additional four puppies, an additional 15 sqm is required. | Greyhounds must have a minimum of:* four breaks per day consisting of toilet and exercise. Each break from the pen must be a minimum of 15 minutes in duration; and
* be exercised in accordance with Table 1 under Section

6.4 of this Code.**Note**: on days when the greyhound is racing and the day following a race, there are no requirements to exercise the greyhound.Exercise areas incorporated into or made adjacent to housing pens must have a minimum additional area of 20 sqm per greyhound.Greyhounds must be monitored at least five times per day for signs of stress and the development of behavioural stereotypies.The establishment’s health management plan must include intervention points and management plans for animals showing signs of stress and or development of behavioural stereotypies.If signs of stress are identified, the greyhound must be moved to larger accommodation and an animal behaviourist or veterinary behaviourist consulted. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Enclosure area for the first greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Minimum width in metres (m)** | **Additional dimensions for second greyhound in square metres (sqm)** | **Conditions of housing** |
| 20 sqm or more | 5 m | 20 sqm per additional greyhound (maximum of four greyhounds).That is, one greyhound would require 20 sqm, two greyhounds would require40 sqm etc. | Greyhounds must receive minimum handling, socialisation, exercise, training and enrichment as set out in Tables 1 and 2 under Sections6.4 and 6.5 of this Code.Exercise areas incorporated into or made adjacent to housing pens must have a minimum additional area of 20 sqm per greyhound. |

#### Toileting yards

Toileting yards (also called empty out yards) must:

* be a minimum area of 15 sqm with a minimum width of 1.5 m;
* be constructed of materials that will not cause injury to greyhounds; and
* be constructed in a manner to prevent greyhounds from escaping or jumping out with a minimum fence height of 1.5 m.

Fences may be constructed from:

* wire mesh with a hole size not exceeding 50 mm x 75 mm; or
* solid partitions.

Fencing must:

* be kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails etc; and
* not allow greyhounds in neighbouring pens to make contact over the top of the fence.

No more than 4 compatible greyhounds may be toileted together at any one time.

No more than two greyhounds may be toileted in a 15 sqm yard. Each additional greyhound requires an addition 5 sqm of area for toileting.

The floor of the toileting yard must:

* not be made from wire, but can be made from any other material;
* be easily cleaned of faeces;
* not be allowed to become infested with parasites; and
* not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds are likely to suffer, or are suffering, from respiratory or eye conditions.

Toileting yards must:

* be drained to prevent pooling of liquids; and
* be cleaned of all faeces immediately after the removal of a greyhound/s from the area and before new greyhounds are introduced to the area.

#### Exercise yards

Exercise yards include any areas that contain a greyhound for a period of time, outside normal housing.

An exercise yard is an area of a minimum of 20 sqm with a minimum width of 5 m. An exercise yard is external to the greyhound’s normal housing (pen)

environment. Establishments must have separate exercise facilities from normal housing, except where housing pens incorporate additional space for exercise (see section 6.6.7 (*Housing*) of this Code).

Exercise yards must be constructed in a manner to prevent greyhounds from escaping or jumping out with a minimum fence height of 1.5 m. Fences may be constructed of:

* wire mesh with a hole size not exceeding 50 mm x 75 mm; or
* solid partitions.

Fencing must:

* be kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails etc; and
* not allow greyhounds in neighbouring pens to make contact over the top of the fence.

The floor of the exercise yard must:

* not be made from wire, but can be made from any other material;
* be easily cleaned of faeces;
* not be allowed to become infested with parasites; and
* not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds are likely to suffer, or are suffering, from respiratory or eye conditions.

Exercise yards must:

* be drained to prevent pooling of liquids; and
* be cleaned of all faeces immediately after the removal of a greyhound/s from the area and before new greyhounds are introduced to the area.

Each greyhound being exercised in an exercise yard must have access to a minimum area of 20 sqm. Up to eight greyhounds may be exercised together in an exercise yard of sufficient size. For example, to exercise two greyhounds, the yard must be a minimum area of 40 sqm with a minimum width of 5 m. To exercise four greyhounds, the yard must be a minimum area of 80 sqm with a minimum width of 5 m and to exercise eight greyhounds, the yard must be a minimum of 160 sqm with a minimum width of 5 m.

Exercise yards, other than day yards that are not attached to normal housing areas must be fully supervised at all times. One staff member can supervise up to 16 greyhounds in exercise yards at one time.

#### Day yards

Day yards may be used as exercise yards for extended unsupervised exercise (greater than one hour).

Day yards must:

* have an area of at least 3 sqm that offers protection from the weather (sun, wind, rain and other extremes of weather);
* contain a raised bed;
* be a minimum of 20 sqm with a minimum width of 5 m;
* be constructed in a manner that prevents greyhounds from escaping or jumping out with a minimum fence height of 1.5 m;
* be drained to prevent pooling of liquids; and
* be cleaned of all faeces immediately after the removal of a greyhound/s from the area and before new greyhounds are introduced to the area.

A day yard is external to the greyhounds normal housing (pen) environment.

Fences may be constructed of:

* wire mesh with a hole size not exceeding 50 mm x 75 mm; or
* solid partitions.

Fencing must:

* be kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails etc; and
* not allow greyhounds in neighbouring yards to make contact over the top of the fence.

The floor of the day yard must:

* not be made from wire, but can be made from any other material;
* be easily cleaned of faeces;
* not be allowed to become infested with parasites; and
* not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds are likely to suffer, or are suffering, from respiratory or eye conditions.

Each greyhound being exercised in a day yard must have access to a minimum area of 20 sqm. Up to 2 greyhounds may be exercised together in a day yard of sufficient size (40 sqm with a minimum width of 5 m).

#### Mating areas

When greyhounds are mating naturally, they must be provided with an area physically isolated from all other greyhounds at the establishment. Naturally mating greyhounds must be provided an area of no less than 15 square metres. Naturally mating greyhounds must not be housed together overnight.

#### Whelping/lactating areas

Separate whelping areas must be provided for each female greyhound/mother and her puppies containing a whelping box.

The whelping box must be large enough for the female greyhound/mother to lie comfortably while whelping and to accommodate the female greyhound/mother and her puppies for the first 4 weeks after whelping.

The whelping box must have solid sides that can be easily disinfected, and must be of a height that will allow the female greyhound/mother to exit readily but will prevent puppies under 4 weeks from falling out.

Whelping areas must be physically separated from all other greyhounds.

Lactating areas must contain a fully screened bedding area to allow the female greyhound/mother physical separation from all other greyhounds.

Whelping and lactating housing must be maintained at a temperature between 10 and 320C at all times.

**Note**

*Newborn puppies prefer an ambient temperature of 320C up until about 4 days of age. After 4 days, the temperature can be gradually reduced over a period of 2–3 weeks. However, during this period of time, the female greyhound/mother may not be comfortable in an environment at a constant 320C. Breeders should consider installing lamps over bedding areas (25 watt globe is sufficient)*

*for puppies, however it is important to provide an alternative cooler area for the bitch.*

*It is important to provide a heat source for the puppies, particularly during colder weather, to ensure they can maintain their body temperature as their internal temperature regulation systems are not working at this age.*

Sleeping areas must be raised off the floor to prevent draughts, but not be of such a height that puppies could fall out and become injured or stranded.

Lactating/whelping areas must contain bedding that is soft, absorbent and easily disposed of or cleaned and disinfected when soiled.

**Note**

*Bedding material should be chosen very carefully. Deep, thick bedding material can result in adverse outcomes for puppies, such as suffocation or squashing if the puppies get themselves under layers of bedding.*

Lactating areas must have a divider to allow the female greyhound/mother access to an area where she cannot be reached by her puppies to allow her to rest.

Whelping and lactating areas must have access to natural daylight.

Construction materials must be selected for ease of maintenance, disinfection and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity.

The identification number of each dog housed in each pen must be clearly displayed on the pen, along with notification if a greyhound in the pen is under veterinary care.

#### Circular training facilities

A bullring is an example of an enclosed circular training facility.

Where an enclosed circular training facility is used for general exercise it must meet the minimum exercise area requirements, that is, an area of 20 sqm.

Training in a circular training facility must be fully supervised at all times. Circular training facilities must be fully enclosed and constructed of materials that will not cause injury to greyhounds.

Circular training facilities must have a fence of a minimum of 1.2 m and no more than 1.8 m in height. Fences may be constructed of:

* wire mesh with a hole size not exceeding 50 mm x 75 mm; or
* solid partitions (up to 1 m only).

Fencing must be kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails etc.

The surface of the circular training facility must:

* be level with no large dips or holes that may cause injury to the greyhound when running;
* not be made of concrete or other materials that could cause injury to the greyhound, such as wood, wire or rough scoria;
* not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds are likely to suffer, or are suffering, from respiratory or eye conditions;
* be cleaned of any faeces after each greyhound is removed from the area;
* be clear of any debris and large weeds; and
* be drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

#### Slipping tracks and galloping runs

Slipping tracks and galloping runs are narrow, straight exercise areas, with or without lures, used to gallop greyhounds.

Slipping track and galloping runs must:

* have a minimum width of 2.4 m; and
* have a minimum fence height of 1.2 m.

All exercise in slipping tracks and galloping runs must be fully supervised.

Only one greyhound should be exercised at any given time in a slipping track or galloping run. Slipping tracks and galloping runs used to train two greyhounds simultaneously must have a minimum width of 3.6 m.

Fence posts and pickets must be constructed on the outside of the wire and wall partitions to prevent greyhounds from coming into contact with and injuring themselves on the posts and pickets while running.

Slipping tracks and galloping runs constructed alongside of one another must have a minimum fence height of 1.2 m and the adjoining fence must be constructed of solid partitions or wire mesh with a hole size not exceeding 50 mm x 75 mm.

Fencing must be kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails, barbed wire etc.

The surface of the slipping track or galloping run must:

* be level with no large dips or holes that may cause injury to the greyhound when running;
* not be made of concrete or other materials that could cause injury to the greyhound, such as wood, wire or rough scoria;
* not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds are likely to suffer, or are suffering, from respiratory or eye conditions;
* be cleaned of any faeces after each greyhound is removed from the area;
* be clear of any debris and large weeds; and
* be drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

#### Trial tracks

A trial track is an area of land used for the purpose of training a greyhound with a mechanical lure.

A trial track includes greyhound trial tracks within the meaning of the *Racing Act 1958* (Vic) and privately owned and used trial tracks.

Trial tracks must:

* be fully supervised at all times when being used by greyhounds;
* have 1.5 m perimeter fence around the area of land containing the trial track to prevent escape of greyhounds or entry of unwanted humans or animals;
* be fully enclosed and constructed of materials that will not cause injury to greyhounds;
* have the outer fencing of the trial track constructed in a manner that prevents injury to greyhounds while running;
* have the outer fencing of the trial tracks constructed in a manner that prevents escape of the greyhound from the trial track; and
* have guidance rails for the inside of the trial track constructed at a height and manner that allows for greyhounds to be visible at all points of the track.

Fence posts and pickets must be constructed on the outside of the wall partitions and rails to prevent greyhounds from coming into contact and injuring themselves on the posts and pickets while running.

Fencing must be kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails etc.

The surface of the trial track must:

* be level with no large dips or holes that may cause injury to the greyhound when running;
* not be made of concrete or other materials that could cause injury to the greyhound, such as wood, wire or rough scoria;
* not be allowed to remain muddy or sufficiently dusty that the greyhounds are likely to suffer, or are suffering, from respiratory or eye conditions;
* be cleaned of any faeces after each greyhound is removed from the area;
* be clear of any debris and large weeds; and
* be drained to prevent pooling of liquids.

The mechanical lure must be kept in good working condition at all times. Lure cables must be kept in good repair at all times.

Animals or animal products must not be placed on the lure.

Greyhounds must not have more than one track run per day and no more than three track runs per week.

Greyhounds known to be incompatible with other greyhounds must be muzzled at all times during trialling.

**Starting boxes**

Starting boxes must:

* be constructed of materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected;
* be constructed of materials that will not cause injury to the greyhound ;
* have a floor surface made from materials that will offer grip to the greyhound when pushing off, but must not be of a material likely to cause injury to the greyhound’s pads;
* have lids and doors that close securely; and
* be kept in good working order at all times.

Greyhounds showing signs of distress must be removed from the starting box. Starting boxes must be cleaned and disinfected each day when used.

**Viewing cages**

Viewing cages must:

* be a minimum of 1.2 m in height and a minimum width of 1 m and length of 1.2 m;
* not have a floor made of wire;
* have a roof and be located in an area with appropriate shade and/or protection from the weather (sun, wind, rain and extremes of heat or cold);
* have doors which are self-locking;
* be cleaned of faeces and urine after the removal of each greyhound from the cage; and
* be disinfected daily.

Greyhounds must:

* not spend more than 2 hours at any one time in a viewing cage;
* have access to water at all times while in the viewing cage;
* be continuously monitored for signs of distress while in the viewing cage; and
* be removed from the viewing cage if they are showing any signs of stress.

**Race day cages**

Race-day cages must:

* be constructed of materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected;
* be constructed of materials that will not cause injury to the greyhound;
* be cleaned of faeces and urine after the removal of each greyhound; and
* be disinfected after use.

Greyhounds in race-day cages must:

* not spend more than 4 hours without the opportunity to toilet; and
* have access to water as needed.

## Transfer and Sale of greyhounds

All greyhounds being sold, given away or transferred from the establishment must be accompanied with a health and management statement and an up to date GRV treatment record book. Details of any known physical abnormality

(including injury) at the time of sale or transfer, any treatment the greyhound is receiving or requires, and how that abnormality may affect the short and long term health and welfare of the greyhound must be included.

The GRV treatment record book must include vaccination certificates stating the date of the last vaccinations and the due date of the next vaccinations. All greyhounds being sold, given away or transferred to a new owner must have current vaccinations in accordance with the Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association guidelines and their GRV treatment record book must be up to date and provided to the new owner.

All greyhounds being sold, given away or transferred to a new owner must be accompanied by a signed transfer of ownership form which is provided to the new owner upon collection of the greyhound.

Purchasers of greyhounds, desexed prior to sale, must be provided with a copy of the desexing certificate.

Greyhound puppies may be sold, given away or transferred to a new owner at any time but must not permanently leave the establishment before eight weeks of age. They may be transported away from the establishment for short periods of time for the purposes of grooming, training and veterinary attention.

All greyhounds must be sold in compliance with the GRV Rules in relation to the sale of dogs.

**Note**

It is recommended that owners obtain a signature on the microchip transfer form from the purchaser and submit the form on behalf of themselves and the purchaser. This will ensure that microchips are transferred into the new owner’s name promptly. A photocopy of the signed form should be provided to the purchaser.

### Sale or transfer of greyhounds out of the industry

Greyhounds sold, given away or transferred to a person or establishment that is not a member of GRV or registered with GRV must be desexed prior to leaving the greyhound establishment, except where the greyhound is surrendered to

a council registered pound or shelter.

GRV must be notified of the name, address, local government area, phone number and any other relevant contact details of the new owner (including a pound or shelter) in the format approved by GRV. GRV must be provided with a copy of the desexing certificate for the greyhound where appropriate.

Greyhounds retired from training or racing that have not completed the retirement preparation must be accompanied by a signed greyhound adoption declaration and a greyhound rehoming statement (see Section

6.3.12 of this Code).

**Note**

Pounds and shelters generally charge a surrender fee and this surrender fee may be more if a greyhound is entire when surrendered.

New owners must be provided with literature about:

* appropriate feeding;
* exercise;
* parasite control;
* housing;
* responsible pet ownership, including current legislation covering the registration of pet greyhounds with local council and any available training opportunities;
* importance of training and socialisation of dogs;
* vaccination; and
* the greyhound’s GRV treatment record book including a Health and Management Statement.

Literature is available free of charge on the DEDJTR website, through local councils, or on the GRV website.

### Guarantee for sale or transfer of greyhounds out of the industry

Where a greyhound is returned to the former owner within 21 days of sale accompanied by a statement from a veterinary practitioner that the greyhound is unacceptable for health or behavioural reasons, the former owner must take back the greyhound and refund 100% of the purchase price.

**Note**

The payment of refunds should be made upon presentation of the greyhound and a signed certificate from a veterinary practitioner for the 21-day return clause.

The purchaser cannot keep the greyhound and request a refund.

## Hobby Establishments

Hobby establishments are defined in this Code as establishments with no more than two greyhounds over the age of 16 weeks.

Hobby establishments may house up to two compatible adult greyhounds and one litter (under 16 weeks of age) together in their home without the requirement to build housing pens or yards.

All other requirements of this Code must be adhered to.

Should pens or yards be constructed, they must meet the minimum standards provided for in this Code.

## Appendix 1

#### Body Conditions Score Chart – Greyhounds

* Individual ribs, spine and pelvis prominent and evident from a distance.

Emaciated

* Lack of muscle mass.
* Little or no body fat.
* Rump hollow.
* Waist prominent when viewed from above.
* Abdomen obviously tucked up.
* Neck thin.
* No fat on tail.

**Veterinary advice must be sought.**

* Ribs, spine and pelvis bones visible and easily felt.

Thin

* Little body fat.
* Neck thin.
* Abdomen tucked up.
* Little fat on tail.

Obvious waist when viewed from above. Increase feeding and worm dog if not wormed recently (ensure all-wormer used – some products do not cover all worms).

**Seek veterinary advice if dog remains underweight or unsure of feeding**

**or worming regime.**

Racing greyhounds have a condition score half way between thin and ideal.



Ideal

* Ribs and spine can be felt, last few ribs may be visible.
* Dog should have a waist when viewed from above.
* Belly is tucked up when viewed from side.
* Good muscle mass.
* Rump well muscled.

#### Body Conditions Score Chart – Greyhounds (continued)

Overweight



Obese

* Ribs and spine not visible but can be felt.
* Fat deposit on tail.
* Little or no waist when viewed from above, rounded appearance, back appears broadened.
* Dog squarish along back line when viewed from side.
* Abdomen not tucked up, may appear rounded underneath.

Reduce feed intake or provide lower calorie feed. Increase exercise.

**Seek veterinary advice
if unsure of appropriate
diet or concerns over exercise regime.**

* Ribs and spine not visible and difficult to feel.
* Tail has obvious fat deposit.
* No waist and back broadened when viewed from above.
* Belly obviously rounded and possibly distended.
* Dog square or rounded up along back line when viewed from side.

**Seek veterinary advice on diet and exercise regime.**

Sour[ce: www.vic.gov.au/pets](http://www.vic.gov.au/pets)

## Appendix 2

### Identifying stress and anxiety in greyhounds

The behaviours listed below may indicate that a greyhound is stressed or anxious.

If these signs occur and do not resolve quickly (within a few minutes) then intervention is required.

First identify the trigger or cause of the stress or anxiety, then either remove the greyhound from the situation or remove the trigger or cause.

**Stress or anxious behaviour**

* Cowering/shaking/shivering/trembling
* Tucked tail
* Ears back
* Avoidance
* Disengaging/ loss of focus
* Freezing in response to stimulus
* Hypervigilance
* Muscle tension
* Panting – excessive (no heat or exercise)
* Yawning
* Teeth chattering
* Lip smacking
* Lip licking
* Cheek puffing
* Unresponsive dilated pupils
* Pacing
* Salivation

**Development of Behavioural Stereotypies**

Behaviours that occur out of a normal context and/or become abnormal in frequency, duration or intensity, indicate that the greyhound is suffering from a stereotypical or compulsive behaviour, and may develop stereotypic behaviour. Stereotypies are indicative of poor welfare. If you notice any serious signs of suffering or welfare problems seek veterinary help.

Early intervention is the key to preventing the development of stereotypies.

|  |
| --- |
|  **Examples of common stereotypical behaviours** |
| Repetitive behaviour such as- excessive licking (environment, self, other greyhounds) |
|  Bopping  |
| Pacing / circling / spinning (worn pads) |
|  Weaving  |
| Destructive behaviour such as- chewing wire, beds or bowls |
|  Barking – persistent (howling)  |

**Preventing Separation anxiety**

Helping greyhounds learn to spend time alone can be useful in preventing the development of separation anxiety. Any time they spend alone must be

experienced as positive and relaxing to make this successful. When separating the greyhound from companions and peosdwaple, ensure the experience is positive and rewarding by providing a desirable long lasting food item or toy. If the greyhound is stressed and doesn’t settle within five minutes then you should end the session and next time leave them alone for a shorter time, so they do not become anxious.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Age** | **Indicators** | **Intervention Options** |
| 8-16 Weeks | Prevention of separation anxiety | Isolation in novel area– isolation from humans and other greyhounds with a kong or other reward.Two times weekly.5 minutes building to 30 minutes. |
| 16 Weeks + Ongoing | Prevention of separation anxiety | Two times per month.30 minutes to an hour (vary length of time). |
| Retirement Training | Prevention of separation anxiety | Three times weekly build to 2-3 hours.Isolation from greyhounds and humans. |

\*At any stage if the greyhound is showing signs of stress then stop and seek help.



### vic.gov.au/pets