

BREEDER CHANGES COMMENCING ON 1 JULY 2015

OVERVIEW

1. What are the changes?

- The new breeding changes will involve:
 - o Introduction of new breeder's licences;
 - o Requiring all dams in NSW to be registered with GRNSW as a breeding female;
 - o Requiring persons to seek approval from GRNSW to breed dams over the age of eight and obtain veterinary certification of appropriate health for that dam;
 - o Requiring persons to seek approval from GRNSW to breed a fourth litter or more and obtain veterinary certification of appropriate health for that dam;
 - o Limiting the frequency of litters for an individual dam to two litters in any 18 month period;
 - o Compulsory vaccination of puppies with a C3 vaccination at 6-8 weeks of age and a C5 vaccination at 10-16 weeks of age;
 - o Increased vaccination requirements for registering a litter and naming a greyhound from C3 to C5.

2. Where can I get more information?

- To further assist participants in gaining a better understanding of the breeding changes due to come into effect on 1 July 2015, GRNSW has also created a new 'Breeding' section on its website - www.thedogs.com.au.
- The Breeding section on www.thedogs.com.au contains a range of fact sheets providing simple information on each major rule change and exactly what participants need to do to comply with the changes.
- The Breeding section will continually be updated over the coming weeks so participants are encouraged to check it on a regular basis so they can stay informed.
- For more information contact GRNSW Member Services on (02) 8767 0500.

3. When do the changes come into effect?

- 1 July 2015.

4. Who do the new Rules apply to?

- The Rules apply to all breeders. Under the Rules, a breeder is defined as any one:
 - o arranges for the service or artificial insemination of a dam;
 - o cares for a dam whelping a litter of pups;
 - o cares for an unnamed greyhound including times the greyhound is being whelped, reared, educated and trained.

5. Why are these new Rules coming into effect?

- These changes are part of the National Greyhound Welfare Strategy which aims to introduce a national approach to breeding to further reduce the number of unsuitable greyhounds being bred, and to ensure the decision to breed is a considered one.
- GRNSW acknowledges that the greyhound racing industry is responsible for the welfare of all racing greyhounds in Australia.
- These new changes demonstrate GRNSW's commitment to upholding animal welfare by taking a strong stance against overbreeding and wastage.
- These changes will:
 - o ensure that the health and fitness of a dam is not adversely affected;
 - o ensure all litters of pups have the best chance of received adequate nutrition for the critical stages of growth and development during pregnancy and suckling stages;
 - o provide an opportunity for new breeders to be educated about all aspects of the breeding process;
 - o prevent the ongoing breeding of a dam that has not produced successful offspring in their first three litters (unless there are extenuating circumstances);
 - o ensure breeders review their dam's success as a producer of racing greyhounds prior to planning their litter;
 - o reduce the number of puppies born that have very limited changes of ever racing;
 - o bring the NSW industry in line with other breeding Codes;
 - o increase the level of protection against disease for racing greyhounds and puppies;

- increase the level of immunity across the racing greyhound population;
- decreased the likelihood of disease outbreaks among the greyhound population; and
- assure that a racing greyhound's vaccination status meets the requirements for boarding under relevant Codes of Practices.

LICENSING BREEDERS

6. What is changing?

- Previously in NSW, any person that was licensed with GRNSW as an owner or trainer was permitted to breed greyhounds. From 1 July 2015, all persons wishing to breed greyhounds will be required to hold a **breeder's licence**.
- Failure to be licensed will result in a breach of the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules.
- Licensing of breeders will also ensure that GRNSW is able to collect data regarding greyhounds bred and whelped.

7. Why are GRNSW introducing breeder licences?

- GRNSW acknowledges that the greyhound racing industry is responsible for the welfare of all racing greyhounds in Australia.
- The licensing process will provide an opportunity for new and existing breeders to be educated about all aspects of the breeding process.
- By introducing breeder licences, participants will be expected to comply with certain standards before breeding.
- These changes are part of the National Greyhound Welfare Strategy which aims to introduce a national approach to breeding to further reduce the number of unsuitable greyhounds being bred, and to ensure the decision to breed is a considered one.
- Licensing of breeders will also ensure that GRNSW is able to collect data regarding greyhounds bred and whelped.
- Most other states in Australia currently licence breeders and require them to complete the Breeders Education Pack.
- GRNSW is adopting the same protocols that have been in place in other jurisdictions for many years.

8. When do I require a breeder's licence?

- Under the new Rules, a person **must** hold a breeder's licence to:
 - o arrange for the service or artificial insemination of a dam;
 - o whelp a litter of pups;
 - o care for an unnamed greyhound including times the greyhound is being whelped, reared, educated and trained.

9. What if I have already bred a litter? Do I need a breeder's licence?

- Yes. From 1 July 2015, any person who breeds a litter of pups will require a breeder's licence.

10. What if I am a rearer, whelper or a breaker?

- You will be required to obtain a breeder's licence.
- GRNSW intends to introduce specific licences for rearers, whelpers or breakers (educators) in the future as part of new changes to the licensing structure in 2016.

11. How do I apply for a breeder's licence?

- If you wish to apply for a breeder's licence, you will be required to complete the **Breeder Licence Application Form** and submit it to GRNSW.
- In the application form, you will need to complete personal details and details about the breeding premises.
- You will also need to provide GRNSW with a National Criminal History Record Check, certified colour passport size photo and a certified copy of your driver's licence, passport or birth certificate if you have not provided these to GRNSW as part of other licence applications prior to the date of the breeder's licence application.
- You will also need to provide GRNSW with the Breeders Education Pack Questionnaire.

12. When will I received my breeder's licence?

- Once GRNSW receives your application form, you will be contacted to have you breeding premises inspected.
- A successful inspection is a condition of being issued with a breeder's licence.
- The inspection will be done in accordance with standards specified in the Code of Practice for Breeding, Rearing and Education.

13. Is there a fee?

- No. You will initially not be charged a fee for the breeder's licence.
- However, fees to offset costs of administration and promote considered breeding decisions will be introduced from 2016.

14. How long do the licences last for?

- The licences are valid for two years.

15. What is the Breeders Education Pack?

- The Breeders Education Pack is an introductory guide to breeding and covers key areas such as 'Getting Started', 'The Pregnancy', 'Whelping the Litter' and 'Raising the Litter'.
- The Education Pack is aimed at providing you with valuable information prior to you making any decisions about breeding, and also to act as a reference when the time comes to whelp your first few litters.
- At the end of the Education Pack, there is a short questionnaire that applicants must successfully complete.
- The pack and questionnaire is available in the Breeding section of the GRNSW website – www.thedogs.com.au
- Participants will be required to complete the questionnaire and attach it to the Breeder Licence Application Form.
- Most other states in Australia require breeders to complete the Breeders Education Pack.

16. I have been a breeder for years. Do I still need to complete the Breeders Education Pack?

- Yes. While GRNSW appreciates and acknowledges that industry participants are very knowledgeable, they will still be required to complete the Breeders Education Pack.

17. What is the Code of Practice for Breeding, Rearing and Education?

- Prior to being issued with a breeder's licence, you will be required to pass the breeding premises inspection. This inspection will assess whether your breeding premises complies with the Code of Practice for Breeding, Rearing and Education (**the Code**).
- Breeders need the space and facilities to whelp and raise a litter, and the industry expects that breeding activities are conducted in a manner that meets or exceeds the requirements outlined in the Code.

- The Code provides an overarching framework for breeders, rearers and educators and specifies the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care for greyhounds.
- The Code is ***not a comprehensive manual*** to care for a greyhound.
- The Code is available in the Breeding section of the GRNSW website – www.thedogs.com.au

18. Will the Code be reviewed?

- The Code will be revised from time to time to take into account new knowledge of animal physiology and behaviour, technological advances, developments in standards of animal welfare and changing community attitudes and expectations about the humane treatment of animals.

19. Do I have to comply with the Code of Practice for Breeding, Rearing and Education the entire time I am a Breeder?

- Yes. Once you are issued with your breeder's licence, you will be required to comply with the Code on an ongoing basis.
- Routine and random breeding premises inspections will be conducted to monitor your compliance with the Code.
- GRNSW also recommends that you consult the Department of Primary Industries' Animal Welfare Code of Practice, Breeding Dogs and Cats.

20. I have been breeding for years, why do I have to comply with the Code?

- The overriding theme of this Code is that the well being of the greyhound must at all times be considered above the demands of owners, breeders, trainers, sponsors, wagering operators, punters and spectators.
- The standards specified under the Code are not new or novel standards.
- Many of the principles in the Code were drawn from:
 - o the Animal Welfare Code of Practice for Breeding Dogs and Cats (2009) issued by the Department of Primary Industries
 - o the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No. 5 – Dogs and Cats in Animal Boarding Establishments (1996) issued by the Department of Primary Industries; and
 - o the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training.
- GRNSW's view is that the Code is simply a rehash of well-established principles that persons involved in breeding activity are already subject to.

21. Will breeding premises be inspected?

- Yes. GRNSW Compliance officers currently conduct routine kennel inspections to ensure Owner Trainers and Public Trainers comply with the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training.
- Prior to being issued with a breeder's licence, you will be required to pass the breeding premises inspection. This inspection will assess whether your breeding premises complies with the Code.
- Once you are issued with your breeder's licence, you will be required to comply with the Code on an ongoing basis.
- Routine and random breeding premises inspections will be conducted to monitor your compliance with the Code

22. What are the penalties for breaching the new Rules?

- A failure to comply with the Rules may result in the imposition of a penalty under the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules. The maximum penalty that may be imposed is \$22,000 or suspension, disqualification and/or cancellation of registration.
- GRNSW will consider lowering the disqualification period only where special circumstances exist to justify the imposition of a lesser penalty.

23. Will there be a grace period for not complying with the Code?

- To enable industry participants to accommodate to the changes, GRNSW will exercise discretion and flexibility, where appropriate, in the initial three months in enforcing breaches of the Code and/or the Rules.
- GRNSW will be taking a pragmatic approach and provide industry with a reasonable opportunity to adjust to the new standards specified in the Code to obtain their breeder's licence.

24. Are these Rules specific to NSW? What about other States?

- No. Most other state controlling bodies currently licence breeders.

REGISTRATION OF BREEDING FEMALE - PINK CARD

25. What is changing?

- From 1 July 2015, you will need to register any female greyhounds that you plan to breed as a **breeding female** with GRNSW to ensure they are eligible to be served when they are next on season.
- This is also known as obtaining a Pink Card.

26. My dam has already whelped litters. Do I still have to apply to register her as a breeding female?

- Yes. Even if your greyhound has had one or more litters, you will still need to apply to register her as a breeding female.

27. How do I apply to register my breeding female?

- In order to register your female greyhound with GRNSW, you will need to complete **the Application for Breeding Identification Card Form** and submit it to GRNSW.
- You must be a licensed breeder to register your breeder female.
- You will be required to provide proof of current C5 vaccination to GRNSW before she can be registered for breeding by GRNSW and receive her Pink Card.

28. What is a C5 vaccination?

- The C5 vaccination provides protection from parvo virus infection, hepatitis, canine distemper, parainfluenza virus and bordatella bronchiseptica. This vaccination must occur when your dog is between the ages of ten (10) and sixteen (16) weeks

29. What happens if I sell my breeding female?

- If you sell your dog to another licensed breeder, the Pink Card will transfer to the second breeder's name.
- If you sell your dog to someone who is not a licensed breeder, the Pink Card will become inactive.
- The buyer will need to obtain a breeder's licence. Once that licence is granted, the dam's Pink Card will be reactivated.

30. Is there a fee?

- No. You will initially not be charged a fee for the Pink Card.
- However, fees to offset costs of administration and promote considered breeding decisions will be introduced from 2016.

31. How long is the Pink Card valid for?

- The Pink Card is valid for life. However, the Pink Card can become deactivated if:
 - o When your dam turns eight years of age;
 - o When your dam has whelped three litters;
 - o When your dam has whelped two litters in an 18 month period

- If you sell your dam to a person who does not have a breeder's licence.

BREEDING RESTRICTIONS

32. What are the new breeding restrictions?

- Once your female greyhound turns eight (8) years of age, her registration as a breeding female will become inactive. Under the new Rules, she will **not** be able to breed again **unless** you are granted approval from GRNSW.
- Once your female greyhound whelps her third litter (regardless of who bred each litter), her registration as a breeding female will become inactive.
- Once your breeding female has whelped two litters within an 18 month period, her registration as a breeding female will become inactive.

33. Why are these restrictions being introduced?

- A number of welfare benefits will be achieved by these changes.
- The restrictions will:
 - ensure that the health and fitness of a dam is not adversely affected;
 - ensure all litters of pups have the best chance of received adequate nutrition for the critical stages of growth and development during pregnancy and suckling stages;
 - prevent the ongoing breeding of a dam that has not produced successful offspring in their first three litters (unless there are extenuating circumstances);
 - ensure breeders review their dam's success as a producer of racing greyhounds prior to planning their litter;
 - reduce the number of puppies born that have very limited changes of ever racing; and
 - bring the NSW industry in line with other breeding Codes of Practices and Codes of Ethics.

34. My dam has turned eight years of age. Can she breed again?

- No. Once your female greyhound turns eight (8) years of age, her registration as a breeding female will become inactive.
- Under the new Rules, she will **not** be able to breed again **unless** you are granted approval from GRNSW.

- In order to seek approval from GRNSW, you will need to complete the **Application to Breed Female Over Eight Years of Age Form** and submit it to GRNSW.

35. My dam has whelped three litters. Can she breed again?

- No. Once your female greyhound whelps her third litter (regardless of who bred each litter), her registration as a breeding female will become inactive.
- Under the new Rules, she will **not** be able to breed a fourth litter or more **unless** you are granted approval from GRNSW.
- In order to seek approval from GRNSW, you will need to complete the **Application to Breed Over Three Litters Form** and submit it to GRNSW. In the application form, you will need to complete details about your female greyhound's breeding history.

36. How do I seek approval from GRNSW to breed a dog over eight or an additional litter after the third?

- In order to seek approval from GRNSW, you will need to complete the **Application to Breed Female Over Eight Years of Age Form OR the Application to Breed Over Three Litters Form** and submit it to GRNSW.
- You must be a licensed breeder to apply for an exemption.
- The new Rules and Application Forms can be viewed in the Breeding section on the GRNSW website – www.thedogs.com.au
- In the application form, you will need to complete details about your female greyhound's breeding history and her previous litters.
- You will also be required to obtain a veterinary certificate demonstrating that your breeding female is fit and healthy to breed.
- The veterinary certificate can be provided with the application form or at a later date after initial consideration has been undertaken.
- This veterinary certificate must be provided to GRNSW within 120 days prior to the date of the intended service.

37. What will GRNSW take into account to determine whether or not my dam can breed?

- Approval will be based on the dam's breeding history and whether your dog is healthy, fit and has whelped pups that have been successful on the track in the past.
- The following criteria will be assessed for each application for a breeding exemption:

1. **Application form must be complete, signed and include all the necessary details and supporting documents;**
2. **The Owner (or person with the authority to breed) must be licensed as a Breeder;**
3. **The breeding premises must have undertaken a satisfactory Kennel Inspection, completed by a GRNSW Compliance Officer;**
4. **The female greyhounds breeding history must demonstrate success. Success will be assessed using the following measures:**
 - a. Percentage of total number of greyhounds **named** against the total number of pups **whelped** (from all litters)
The percentage must be greater than 80%
 - b. Percentage of total number of greyhounds that **started** in race against the total number of pups **named** (from all litters)
The percentage must be greater than 80%.
 - c. Percentage of total number of greyhounds that **won** a race against the total number of pups **named** (from all litters)
The percentage must be greater than 60%.

5. Dog must be fit and healthy to breed – Veterinary Certificate

Participants are required to obtain a veterinary certificate demonstrating that the breeding female is fit and healthy to breed.

You may attach this veterinary certificate to the application for breeding exemption. Alternatively, a veterinary certificate can be supplied to GRNSW after the initial consideration of the application.

38. What happens if there are any special circumstances affecting the above percentages (like an infection or disease)?

- You will have space in the application forms to include any details about any circumstances that might affect the success rate.
- GRNSW will consider those special circumstances and exercise discretion if appropriate.

39. When do I have to get the veterinary certificate?

- You will also be required to obtain a veterinary certificate demonstrating that your breeding female is fit and healthy to breed.
- This can either be attached with the application or provided to GRNSW after initial consideration of the application has been undertaken.
- However, the veterinary certificate must be provided to GRNSW within 120 days prior to the date of the intended service.

40. What happens if I am granted approval?

- If a breeding exemption has been approved, GRNSW will notify you in writing.
- Approval will permit one additional service or insemination regardless of the result and whether or not your dam is served.
- If you wish to arrange an additional service or insemination, you will need to fill out another form and submit to GRNSW for approval.

41. Are there any fees for applying?

- No. However, fees apply for registering a litter.
- Remember, from 1 August 2015, litter registration fees are increasing to \$150 for those dams served on or after 1 August 2015.

42. Do the changes mean my dam can only breed fourth litters?

- No. After your dam whelps its third litter, you will be required to seek an exemption from GRNSW for every subsequent litter.
- For example, if your dam has bred a fourth litter, you will need to apply for GRNSW for an exemption for it to breed a fifth litter.
- Remember, approval will permit one additional service or insemination regardless of the result and whether or not your dam is served.
- If you wish to arrange an additional service or insemination, you will need to fill out another form and submit to GRNSW for approval.

43. What is my dam is over eight years of age and has whelped over three litters? Which form do I fill out?

- You can fill out either form if your dam falls into both categories.
- However, approval, if granted, will only permit one additional service or insemination regardless of the result and whether or not your dam is served.
- If you wish to arrange an additional service or insemination, you will need to fill out another form and submit to GRNSW for approval.

44. What happens if my breeding female has whelped two litters within an 18 month period?

- Once your breeding female has whelped two litters within an 18 month period, her registration as a breeding female will become inactive.
- If your breeding female is a 'six-month cycler', this will mean she will be forced to rest one season before being mated again.
- This will allow her body adequate time to recover and allow her pups to reach an age where their ability can be assessed.
- You will not be permitted to seek an exemption from GRNSW to whelp more than two litters within an 18 month period.

INCREASED VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

45. What is changing?

- From 1 July 2015, compulsory vaccinations of pups will comprise two different vaccinations at two different points of the pup's infancy.
- The addition of a compulsory vaccination (minimum of C3) will be required for puppies aged between six to eight weeks of age.
- A C5 vaccination will be required for puppies between 10 to 16 weeks of age.
- The level of vaccination required for naming a greyhound will be increased from C3 to C5.
- The level of vaccination required for a litter to be registered will be increased from C3 to C5.
- Puppies cannot be moved until microchipped, earbranded and until at least 14 days has elapsed after the 10-16 week C5 vaccination.

46. Why are these changes being introduced?

- The changes will bring a number of welfare benefits to the greyhound population aimed at improving the health and welfare of our greyhound population.
- Among the benefits will be:
 - o Increased level of protection against disease for racing greyhounds and puppies;
 - o Increased level of immunity across the racing greyhound population;

- Decreased likelihood of disease outbreaks among the greyhound population;
- Assurance that a racing greyhound's vaccination status meets the requirements for boarding under relevant Codes.

47. What happens when my puppy turns 6 weeks of age?

- You must arrange for the **first** vaccination.
- The first vaccination must occur between the ages of six (6) and eight (8) weeks and must provide protection from parvo virus infection, hepatitis, and canine distemper.
- This is commonly referred to as a C3 vaccination.

48. What happens when my puppy turns 10 weeks of age?

- You must arrange for the **second** vaccination.
- The second vaccination must occur between the ages of ten (10) and sixteen (16) weeks and must provide protection from parvo virus infection, hepatitis, canine distemper, parainfluenza virus and bordatella bronchiseptica.
- This is commonly referred to as a C5 vaccination.

49. When can I register my litter?

- Under the new Rules, the level of vaccination required for a litter to be registered will be increased from C3 to C5.

50. When can I move my puppy?

- Under the new Rules, pups cannot be moved until microchipped, earbranded and until at least 14 days has elapsed after the 10-16 week C5 vaccination.
- This is to ensure that the pups are fully protected prior to being moved.

51. When can I name my puppy?

- Under the new Rules, the level of vaccination required for a puppy to be named will be increased from C3 to C5.
- If you will be naming a greyhound on or after 1 July 2015, you will be required to provide proof of current C5 vaccination to GRNSW before the naming application can be approved.

52. Do vaccinations affect my dam?

- Yes. If you intend to register your Dam as a 'Breeding Female', you will be required to provide proof of current C5 vaccination to GRNSW before she can be registered for breeding by GRNSW.

53. Why are these changes being made?

- As part of the National Greyhound Welfare Strategy, a number of new GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules (Rules) relating to vaccinations will commence on 1 July 2015. These Rules are aimed at improving the health and welfare of our greyhound population.

54. Where can I get more information?

- To further assist participants in gaining a better understanding of the breeding changes due to come into effect on 1 July 2015, GRNSW has also created a new 'Breeding' section on its website - www.thedogs.com.au.
- The Breeding section on www.thedogs.com.au contains a range of fact sheets providing simple information on each major rule change and exactly what participants need to do to comply with the changes.
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