

Changes to lure rules and policy on 1 December 2015

1. What is the lure policy of Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW)?

- The Rules state that a person can only use a lure approved by GRNSW.
- The ***use of any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal*** (including for example animal-derived wool, fur, feathers or tanned and professionally processed skin) as a lure in greyhound training, education or racing is strictly prohibited.
- A person will not be able to keep a live animal in a place where greyhounds are kept, trained or raced which could be used as a lure unless they notify GRNSW by filling out the 'Animal Declaration Form'.
- If a person witnesses or suspects a person breaking the Rules, they will be required to report this to GRNSW.

2. Where can I get more information?

- GRNSW has developed a policy titled 'The use of live animals, animal carcasses or parts of an animal in lures' to guide industry on how to apply the new Rules.
- This policy and Rules are available on our website – www.thedogs.com.au.

3. When do the changes come into effect?

- 1 December 2015. (These changes follow on from GRNSW's interim policy of 20 April 2015 which strictly prohibited the use of any animal carcass or part of an animal as a lure or bait in greyhound training, education and racing. From 1 December 2015, the use of tanned and professionally processed animal skins for the purposes of trialling or educating greyhounds is also strictly prohibited.)

4. Who do the new Rules apply to?

- The Rules apply to all persons involved in greyhound racing and includes rearers, trainers and owners in any grounds, premises or within the boundaries of any property in NSW.

5. Why are these new Rules coming into effect?

- GRNSW believes that it is not acceptable for persons to use live animals or animal carcasses in lures or baits.
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- In light of recent events, GRNSW and other State Controlling Bodies is of the view that community expectations and awareness about the treatment of other animals is continually increasing and it is vital that animal industries strive to meet and exceed these expectations.
- The Greyhound Racing industry has a responsibility to ensure it continually evolved by adapting contemporary best practice training methods.

- GRNSW has adopted the Rules to reflect its zero tolerance stance towards the mistreatment of animals.
- These new Rules demonstrate GRNSW's commitment to upholding animal welfare and the integrity of greyhound racing by taking a strong stance against the use of animals in lures and as a training and education tool for greyhounds.

6. What is considered a lure?

- The new Rules define a lure as any item, natural or man-made, that is used in any way for the purposes of encouraging or enticing a greyhound to pursue, attack or excite it in response.
- A bait or quarry has the same meaning as a lure.

7. What lures has GRNSW approved?

- GRNSW has approved lures that are:
 - o made up of synthetic materials only; and
 - o may contain an audible device.
- For the purposes of this rule, "synthetic materials" means non-animal derived materials.
- As such, the use of any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal (including for example animal-derived wool, fur, feathers or tanned and professionally processed skin) as a lure in greyhound training, education or racing is strictly prohibited.

8. Can tanned and professionally processed animal skins be used as lures?

- No. Any lure made up of animal derived materials is strictly prohibited.

9. Can I use lures made up of dead animal carcasses? For example, frozen rabbits I bought from the shop?

- No. The rules specifically state that **you cannot use any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal as a lure** in connection with greyhound training, education or racing.

10. Why can't I use dead carcasses or tanned and professionally processed animal skins if I buy them from the shop?

- In light of recent events, GRNSW and other State Controlling Bodies is of the view that community expectations and awareness about the treatment of other animals is continually increasing and it is vital that animal industries strive to meet and exceed these expectations.
- The Greyhound Racing industry has a responsibility to ensure it continually evolved by adapting contemporary best practice training methods.

11. What if I keep pets on a property where greyhounds are kept?

- You must notify GRNSW using the Animal Declaration Form.
- The Animal Declaration Form has certain details you must fill out including:
 - o Your name and address of the premises;
 - o Type of the premises (i.e. kennel, trial track);
 - o Details of animals on the property including the type of animal and identification information (e.g. microchip); and
 - o Where the animal is kept in relation to the greyhounds.

12. What if I have animals for rural or agricultural persons on a property where greyhounds are kept?

- You must notify GRNSW using the Animal Declaration Form.
- The Animal Declaration Form has certain details you must fill out including:
 - o Your name and address of the premises;
 - o Type of the premises (i.e. kennel, trial track);
 - o Details of animals on the property including the purpose for keeping the animal (i.e. dairy/wool production); and
 - o Where the animal is kept in relation to the greyhounds.

13. How can I notify GRNSW?

- GRNSW has developed the 'Animal Declaration Form' for persons to notify GRNSW of animals kept as domesticated pets or for agricultural purposes in a place where greyhounds are also kept, trained or raced. This form is available on the GRNSW website and sent out to persons on request.

14. What sorts of things do I have to put in the Animal Declaration Form?

- A person must notify GRNSW if there are permanent domestic pets on their premises.
- Domestic animals kept as pets must be identified by microchip if required under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW).
- A person must report to GRNSW if they own a property where greyhounds are trained and cattle, sheep or other livestock are bred or reared.

Where a person is conducting an agricultural business, there must be a clear and secure delineation between the greyhound and livestock areas.

15. What about family who visit with pets or stray animals?

- GRNSW does not expect persons to notify GRNSW of each and every instance where animals are kept on the property.
- The following are some examples where notification would not be required or expected:

- occasions where stray animals such as kangaroos or cats appear on the premises;
- exact numbers of animals used for rural or agricultural purposes.

16. Do I have to include exact numbers of my cattle or agricultural animals?

- No. GRNSW does not expect persons to provide exact numbers of animals used for rural or agricultural purposes, but the type of animal should be recorded on the form.

17. What happens if I don't notify GRNSW of my live animals on my property?

- You may be in breach of the Rules which state that a person must not keep any live animal on a property where greyhounds are kept if that animal is reasonably capable of being used as a lure to excite or entice a greyhound.
- The penalties for breaching the Rules include disqualification for a minimum period of 10 years and/or a fine up to \$22,000.
- GRNSW will consider lowering the disqualification period only where special circumstances exist to justify the imposition of a lesser penalty.

18. If I notify GRNSW, does that mean I'm 'off the hook'?

- No. The only purpose of the notification is to permit a person to rely on this notification as an exception to new Rules that state a person must not keep any live animal on a property where greyhounds are kept if that animal is reasonably capable of being used as a lure to excite or entice a greyhound.
- It is important to note that notifying GRNSW as to other animals on properties does not excuse a person from certain responsibilities under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006* which deals with the keeping of other species of animals other than a coursing dog at a place used for the trialling, training or racing of coursing dogs (i.e. greyhounds).

19. Are these rules NSW specific? What about other states?

- No. All other state controlling bodies will adopt the National Rules relating to lures. As such, similar rules will be enforced across the country.
- To ensure consistency, any person penalised under the new Rules in another State will not be able to make an application to GRNSW for any licence, registration or to be an owner.
- Similarly, if you are penalised under the GRNSW Rules, you will not be able to make an application in another state for any licence, registration or to be an owner.

20. What I see someone still using animals in their lures? Do I have to say anything?

- Yes. Under the new Rules, if you witness or suspect someone is using animals in or as a lure, you are required to report it to GRNSW as soon as possible.
- If you do not, you could be disqualified for a minimum period of 5 years and/or fined a maximum amount of \$20,000.
- GRNSW believes that participants and the industry must commit to taking positive steps to eradicate the mistreatment of animals from the sport and report any suspected wrongdoing for investigation.

21. I am affiliated with a Club. What's my role in all of this?

- If you are an officer, employee, member, visitor or contractor of a Club, and witness or suspect someone is using animals in or as a lure in any of the Club's grounds, your Club is required to report it to GRNSW immediately.
- If you do not report this, your Club's licence could be cancelled temporarily or permanently.
- Your Club could also be penalised.

22. I am affiliated with a greyhound trial track or training facility. What's my role in all of this?

- If you are a manager, employee, member, visitor or contractor of trial track of training facility a Club, and witness or suspect someone is using animals in or as a lure in any of the Club's grounds, your facility's manager is required to report it to GRNSW immediately.
- If you do not report this, you and your facility's registration could be cancelled temporarily or permanently.
- You could also be penalised pursuant to the Rules – which includes deregistration and suspension.

23. Are birds considered animals?

- Yes, the Rules provide that for the purposes of these provisions, a bird is also an animal.

24. Can I still feed my dog meat?

- Yes. The routine feeding of meat to greyhounds permissible.

25. What scientific evidence does GRNSW have to suggest using animal products in lures are not appropriate?

- This move comes following the release of Working Dog Alliance Australia's landmark report on best practice rearing, socialisation, education and training methods for racing greyhounds, which recommended all lures to be synthetic and of non-related animal material.

- In amending its policy on lures, GRNSW also gave consideration to the Working Dog Alliance's finding that animal-derived products had no impact whatsoever on a greyhound's ability to chase.

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