

# Policy: The use of live animals, animal carcasses or parts of an animal in lures

## Date policy was made

17 April 2015

## Commencement date of this version

1 December 2015

## Application

This policy applies 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 New South Wales (NSW).

## Purpose

On 1 December 2015, the Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**) Greyhound Racing Rules were amended to further mandate the use of synthetic lures in the training, education and racing of any greyhound.

The purpose of this policy is to clarify GRNSW's position and local rules on the use of any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal as a lure in connection with greyhound training, education or racing.

The use of any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal as a lure in greyhound training, education or racing is strictly prohibited.

## Background

### Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GARs)

In summary, the GARs:

- define '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;

- provide that a person may only have in their possession a lure that is approved by the Controlling body at any place where greyhounds are kept, trained, educated, prepared to race or are racing (GAR86A);
- provide that a person shall be disqualified for a minimum period of 10 years and/or fined an amount specified in the Act or Rules (unless special circumstances exist to justify the imposition of a lesser penalty) if they (GAR86B(1)):
  - (a) use any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal as a lure in connection with greyhound training, education or racing;
  - (b) possess any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal likely to be used as a lure in premises where greyhounds are trained, kept or raced;
  - (c) cause, procure, permit or allow a greyhound to pursue or attack any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal;
  - (d) fail to use reasonable endeavours to prevent a greyhound from pursuing or attacking any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal;
  - (e) are in any way involved in committing or are knowingly concerned with conduct set out in (a) to (d);
  - (f) aid, abet, counsel or procure any person to commit conduct set out in (a) to (d);
  - (g) are convicted by a Court of an offence relating to the use or possession of any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal in connection with greyhound training, education or racing;
- provide that a person shall be disqualified for a minimum period of 5 years and/or fined a maximum amount of \$20,000 if they witness conduct set out in (a) to (g) above and fail to report it to the Controlling Body (GAR86(2));
- expand the current definition of training which means the preparation, education or exercise of a greyhound to race or trial to include any activities where a greyhound is exposed to an item for the purposes of enticing, exciting or encouraging it (GAR86C(1));
- provide that where an employee or affiliate of a Club, trial track or training facility fails to report knowledge or suspicion of an offence under GAR86A or 86B to the Controlling Body, that Club's license, or trial track/ training facility's registration, may be cancelled and the relevant person may be penalised (GAR86C(2) and (3));
- provide that any person penalised under the Rule in any jurisdiction will not be entitled to make any application to the Controlling Body for a licence, registration or to be an owner (GAR86C(4));
- provide that a person will not breach GAR86B(1)(b) if they notify the Controlling Body about an animal they keep on a relevant premises as a domesticated pet or for rural or agricultural purposes in the manner and form required by the Controlling Body (GAR86C(5)); and

- clarify that the routine feeding of meat to greyhounds is permissible (GAR86C(6)); and
- clarify that an animal includes a bird (GAR86C(7)).

## Policy

### Approved lures

The use of any live animal or animal carcass or part of an animal as a lure in greyhound training, education or racing is strictly prohibited.

GAR1 specifies that a 'lure' means any item, natural or man-made, that is used in any way, by any person with the intention or effect of encouraging or inciting a greyhound to pursue, attack or excite it by responding to such stimuli, and 'quarry' and 'bait' shall have a similar meaning.

For the purpose of GAR86A, GRNSW approves a lure that:

- (a) is made up of synthetic materials only; and
- (b) 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.

These changes are reflected in the amended Local Rule (**LR**) 86A.

### Offences on luring and baiting

GRNSW has adopted GAR86B reflecting its zero tolerance stance towards the mistreatment of animals. GRNSW believes that it is not acceptable for persons to use live animals or animal carcasses in lures or baits. The offences ensure that any participants seeking to benefit from the mistreatment of animals will be penalised. The penalties for the offences are disqualification for a minimum period of 10 years and/or a fine up to \$22,000. GRNSW may impose a penalty less than the minimum penalty if there is a finding that a special circumstance exists.

In summary, a person will be disqualified for a minimum period of 10 years and/or fined if GRNSW is of the opinion they:

- (a) use any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal as a lure in connection with greyhound training, education or racing; or
- (b) possess any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal likely to be used as a lure in premises where greyhounds are trained, kept or raced; or

- (c) cause, procure, permit or allow a greyhound to pursue or attack any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal; or
- (d) fail to use reasonable endeavours to prevent a greyhound from pursuing or attacking any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal; or
- (e) are any way involved in committing or are knowingly concerned with conduct set out in (a) to (d); or
- (f) aid, abet, counsel or procure any person to commit conduct set out in (a) to (d); or
- (g) are convicted by a Court of an offence relating to the use or possession of any live animal, animal carcass or part of an animal in connection with greyhound training, education or racing.

GRNSW believes that participants and the industry must commit to take positive steps to eradicate the mistreatment of animals from the sport and report any suspected wrongdoing for investigation. Under GAR86(2), a person who witnesses conduct in (a) to (d) above and fails to report it to GRNSW as soon as reasonably practicable will be disqualified for a minimum period of 5 years and/or fined a maximum amount of \$20,000.

Further, where an employee or affiliate of a Club, trial track or training facility fails to report knowledge or suspicion of an offence under GAR86B to the Controlling Body, that Club's license, or trial track/ training facility's registration, may be cancelled and the relevant person may be penalised in accordance with the Rules.

To ensure that there is a consistent approach across Australia to imposing penalties, GAR86C(4) will also provide that any person penalised under the Rule in any jurisdiction will not be entitled to make any application to GRNSW for a licence, registration or to be an owner.

These 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.

GRNSW recognises that Rules such as these are necessary to rebuild public confidence in the oversight and integrity of the sport and demonstrate the prevention of mistreatment of animals and welfare of the greyhounds is prioritised, while also striving to achieve a more vibrant and sustainable industry in NSW.

*Notification to GRNSW - domesticated pets or animals kept for rural or agricultural purposes*

GAR86C(5) provides that a person shall not be in breach of GAR86B(1)(b) where the animal is kept on or at the premises as a domesticated pet or is kept for rural or agricultural purposes with prior notification to and approval from the Controlling Body. For the purpose of this sub-rule, notification must be in the manner and form required by the Controlling Body for this exclusion to apply.

GAR86B(1)(b) provides that a person who, in the opinion of the Stewards or Controlling Body, attempts to possess, or has possession of, or brings onto, any grounds, premises or within the boundaries of any property where greyhounds are, or are to be trained, kept or raced, any live animal, animal carcass or any part of an animal for the purpose of being, or which might

reasonably be capable of being, or likely to be, used as bait, quarry or lure to entice or excite or encourage a greyhound to pursue it; shall be disqualified for a period of not less than 10 years and, in addition shall be fined a sum not exceeding such amount as specified in the relevant Act or Rules, unless there is a finding that a special circumstance exists, whereupon a penalty less than the minimum penalty may be imposed.

For the purposes of GAR86C(5), GRNSW has developed the 'Animal Declaration Form' (**Form**). The Form is available on the GRNSW website and sent out to persons on request.

The purpose of the Form is to permit a person to rely on the notification as an exception to the offence provision in R86B(1)(b). In other words, if someone declares to GRNSW that they have a pet on the property, that person could rely on that Form, and GRNSW's acceptance of that Form, as an exception to GAR86B(1)(b).

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 may not be required or expected:

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

A person must notify GRNSW if there are domestic pets on their premises. Domestic animals kept as pets must be identified by microchip if required under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* (NSW). Further, 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.

Where persons are in doubt, they should declare all relevant information to GRNSW by completing the Form.

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* (NSW) and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006* (NSW) 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).

## Definitions

**Authorised person** means a person authorised or approved by the Controlling Body or the Stewards from time to time to do certain things, to exercise certain powers, or to deal with certain situations.

**Lure** means any item, natural or man-made, that is used in any way, by any person with the intention or effect of encouraging or inciting a greyhound to pursue, attack or excite it by responding to such stimuli, and 'quarry' and 'bait' shall have a similar meaning.

**Greyhound racing** means everything and anyone who participants, at any level, at any time, with any activity associated with greyhounds or racing and includes, but is not limited to:

- the keeping of greyhounds which are in the care of custody of registered or other persons;
- the registration and breeding of greyhounds; and
- any matter or thing connecting with greyhound racing.

**Synthetic materials** means non-animal derived materials.

**Train or training** shall mean the preparation, education or exercise of a greyhound to race of trial.

**Training** shall include, in addition to those activities otherwise defined as 'training' in the Rules, any activities whereby a greyhound is exposed to any item for the purpose or effect, or that would have the likely effect, of enticing, exciting or encouraging it to pursue, entice or excite, or that causes such reaction from a greyhound.

## Rules

LR86A has been amended for this policy.

## Amendments to, and operation of, this policy

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

### Revision History

Version	Date	Description
1.01	17 April 2015	CEO Approval
1.02	1 December 2015	1 December 2015 approved lures amendment