

Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW)

Policy: Return to Racing Assessment Process for Greyhounds Implicated in RSPCA Live Baiting Visits

Date policy was made

7 April 2015

Commencement date

7 April 2015

Application

This policy applies to all licensed and registered persons. This includes, but is not limited to trainers and owners.

Background

On Wednesday 11 February 2015, RSPCA NSW attended two training properties and one residential premises as a consequence of a complaint that had been made to RSPCA NSW by Animals Australia. The complaint alleged that registered greyhounds and industry participants were involved in live animal baiting practices.

As a result of the visits and ongoing investigations by RSPCA NSW and Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**), the named greyhounds that were on the properties at that time have been suspended from racing and unnamed greyhounds have been prevented from registering to race. As of the date of the policy, there are 25 named and 79 unnamed greyhounds that are affected.

Ensuring an appropriate and rigorous process to assess the nature and extent of any effects associated with live baiting practices is fundamental to restoring public confidence around industry supervision and integrity of the sport. To this end it is important that a robust and transparent process is implemented which addresses concerns around individuals potentially benefiting from animal cruelty such as realising a competitive advantage in races and provides for the welfare of affected greyhounds in the short and long term.

Purpose

In assessing the risk to the integrity of the sport or the welfare of any greyhound it is essential that all areas of the greyhound's life cycle are reviewed and the individual circumstances of each greyhound are taken into account.

Set out below are the procedures for both named and unnamed greyhounds which are designed ensure the ongoing welfare of the greyhound including both veterinary and behavioural aspects, while minimising future risk by the ongoing monitoring of the greyhound and persons associated throughout its lifecycle.

The process of lifetime tracking will provide GRNSW with a unique opportunity to obtain data from a controlled sample of greyhounds throughout their lifecycle and transition to pets. The information may identify potential linkages from the data collected including the effect of breeding, exposure, environment, racing and socialisation to the greyhound's overall success, performance and welfare.

PROCESS FOR NAMED GREYHOUNDS IMPLICATED IN LIVE BAITING ON PROPERTIES		
1	Owner to complete statutory declaration	Greyhound's name, microchip and earbrand number to be confirmed. Details of greyhound's breeding, rearing, training and current/future arrangements to be provided. Declaration as to non-participation in live baiting practices and details of inquiries made.
2	Compliance Officer to conduct inspection of kennel	Compliance Officer to ensure compliance with GRNSW Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training.
3	GRNSW Veterinarian to conduct pre-trial examination	Veterinarian to form opinion on greyhound's general health and fitness.
4	Greyhound to participate in Stewards Trial	Steward and/or GRNSW veterinarian to monitor greyhound's behaviour and performance.
5	GRNSW decision	If assessed as suitable, go to step 6 If not assessed as suitable, go to step 7
6	Suitable for racing - Ongoing Monitoring	Owner required to obtain GRNSW approval before transferring ownership of greyhound to another. Owner required to obtain GRNSW approval before trainer of greyhound is changed.* Owner required to obtain GRNSW written approval in order to euthanise greyhound. Any subsequent owners required to obtain GRNSW approval for the above matters. *Where new trainer, steps 2-6 to be undertaken again.
7	Not suitable for racing - Greyhound Adoption Program	Owner provided with opportunity to surrender greyhound to GRNSW Greyhound Adoption Program. Owner required to obtain GRNSW written approval in order to euthanise greyhound.

PROCESS FOR UNNAMED GREYHOUNDS IMPLICATED IN LIVE BAITING ON PROPERTIES		
1	Owner to complete statutory declaration	Greyhound's name, microchip and earbrand number to be confirmed. Details of greyhound's breeding, rearing, training and current/future arrangements to be provided. Declaration as to non-participation in live baiting practices and details of inquiries made.
2	Compliance Officer to conduct inspection of kennel	Compliance Officer to ensure compliance with GRNSW Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training.
3	GRNSW Veterinarian to conduct pre-trial examination	Veterinarian to form opinion on greyhound's general health and fitness.
4	Greyhound to participate in Performance Trial	Steward and/or GRNSW veterinarian to monitor greyhound's behaviour and performance.
5	GRNSW decision	If assessed as suitable, go to step 6 If not assessed as suitable, go to step 7
6	Suitable for racing - Ongoing Monitoring	Owner required to obtain GRNSW approval before transferring ownership of greyhound to another. Owner required to obtain GRNSW approval before trainer of greyhound is changed.* Owner required to obtain GRNSW written approval in order to euthanise greyhound. Any subsequent owners required to obtain GRNSW approval for the above matters. *Where new trainer, steps 2-6 to be undertaken again.
7	Not suitable for racing - Greyhound Adoption Program	Owner provided with opportunity to surrender greyhound to GRNSW Greyhound Adoption Program. Owner required to obtain GRNSW written approval in order to euthanise greyhound.

Revision History

Version	Date	Description
1.01	7 April 2015	CEO Approval