

Re-homing a greyhound

Planning to re-home a greyhound after its racing career has finished should be considered at a very early stage of that greyhound's life.

A number of options are available to find a suitable home for a greyhound. It is Greyhound Racing Victoria's (GRV's) expectation that more than one option should be explored. This can include (but are not limited to) asking friends and family to adopt the greyhound, enrolling your greyhound in the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) or approaching other re-homing organisations such as Gippsland Greyhounds and Greyhound Safety Net.

Details and records of your efforts to re-home your greyhound should be kept. These may be requested by GRV.

To find out more about how to enter your greyhound into GAP, follow the links on the GAP website (<http://gap.grv.org.au/>). Other information on retiring your greyhound can be found on the new Greyhound Care and Standards website (<http://greyhoundcare.grv.org.au/>).

Notice of Re-homing

You must notify GRV of greyhounds that have been successfully re-homed by retiring them on the 'Retirement' page after you log in with your details on Fast Track (<https://fasttrack.grv.org.au/>).

FAQs: Re-homing of Greyhounds

My greyhound has just finished racing. What do I have to do to "make every effort" to re-home him/her?

You need to be able to demonstrate that you have explored appropriate options to find a suitable home for the greyhound.

It's GRV's expectation that more than one option be explored, which could include (but not limited to) asking friends and family to adopt the greyhound, entering your greyhound in the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) or approaching other re-homing organisations such as Gippsland Greyhounds and Greyhound Safety Net.

Details and records of your efforts to re-home your greyhound, such as emails, voice messages, diary entries of calling potential adopters, should be kept as these may be requested by GRV.

Website content - Euthanasia

If a greyhound is required to be euthanased, the only acceptable method of euthanasia is by overdose of barbiturate administered by a registered veterinarian

Notices of Intention to Euthanasia

If you intend to euthanase more than five (5) greyhounds in any four-week period, you must give at least 7 days of notice to the GRV Board in writing.

If you are not the owner of a greyhound you intend to euthanize, you will need to be able to show you have authority to make that decision. A separate notice is required for each greyhound you intend to euthanase.

Emergency Euthanasia

You should have a discussion, as well as a written agreement, with your local registered veterinarian to identify an appropriate process for performing euthanasia in an emergency situation.

The agreement should include the procedure for handling an emergency situation, for example:

- Contact the veterinarian by phone and describes the injury or illness
- Follow any veterinary instructions.
- If the veterinarian gives you direction to perform euthanasia (emergency situations only), this should be by way of a previously agreed and humane method, as specified in your written agreement with the vet.
- Request a written certificate from the veterinarian to submit to the GRV Board.

If you are not the owner of the greyhound, you should ensure that your arrangements with the owner provide you with a clear direction and authority in relation to emergency euthanasia situations.

Notice of Death

If a greyhound has died (whether by natural cause, accident, misadventure, euthanasia or otherwise) GRV must be notified within two working days on the 'Retirement' page after you log in with your details on Fast Track (<http://fasttrack.grv.org.au/>).

FAQs: Euthanasia of greyhounds

When do I have to give GRV a 'Notice of Intention' to euthanase greyhounds?

If you intend to euthanase more than five (5) greyhounds in any four-week period, you must give at least 7 days of notice to the GRV Board in writing.

This requirement is cumulative. This means that even if you only intend to euthanize three greyhounds, but later (but within the rolling four week period) intend to euthanize an additional three greyhounds, you will need to lodge a Notice of Intention before euthanizing those additional three.

You do not need to lodge a Notice of Intention for an emergency euthanasia situation; however this will count as one euthanasia for the purposes of the four week period.

Do I need to do a separate notice for each greyhound I intend to euthanase?

Yes. You can download a copy of the relevant form in the 'Retirement' page after you log in with your details on Fast Track (<http://fasttrack.grv.org.au/>).

What is the acceptable method of euthanasia?

The only acceptable method of euthanasia is by overdose of barbiturate administered by a registered veterinarian, except when immediate euthanasia is essential.

I have a firearm licence. Can I euthanase my greyhound myself?

No. The GRV Rules clearly state that the only acceptable method of euthanasia is by overdose of barbiturate administered by a registered veterinarian.

The only exception to this rule is when immediate euthanasia is essential and is under the direction of a veterinarian.

When would immediate euthanasia be considered essential?

Immediate euthanasia is only considered essential in an emergency situation – when a greyhound is suffering from a catastrophic injury or medical condition or illness and cannot be transported to a registered veterinarian within an hour's drive due to remote distance.

Please note that an immediate euthanasia can only be carried out under the direction of a registered veterinarian.

What type of agreement should I have to prepare for a possible emergency euthanasia situation?

You should have a discussion, as well as a written agreement with your local registered veterinarian prior to any situations arising that may require essential immediate euthanasia.

The agreement should include the procedure for handling an emergency situation, for example:

- Contact the veterinarian by phone and describes the injury or illness
- Follow any veterinary instructions.
- If the veterinarian gives you direction to perform euthanasia (emergency situations only), this should be by way of a previously agreed and humane method, as specified in your written agreement with the vet
- Request a written certificate from the veterinarian to submit to the GRV Board.

What do I need to do if my greyhound suffers a catastrophic injury and I can't get to the vet within an hour?

If your greyhound suffers a catastrophic injury or illness, you should immediately contact a veterinarian by phone to discuss the situation and apply any instructions such as first aid. Ask your vet for advice about whether the greyhound can be transported or not.

If your vet directs you to perform essential immediate euthanasia, you must follow the agreed procedure in your the written agreement with your vet detailing what happens in a situation where emergency euthanasia is required, for example, perform euthanasia using a firearm in a competent and humane manner.

If you perform an essential immediate euthanasia, you must obtain a written certificate from your to accompany the greyhound's death notification to the Board, and dispose of the greyhound's body in accordance with the GRV Rules.

Do I need to notify GRV when a friend or family member adopts my greyhound?

If your friend or family member is not a GRV participant you must notify GRV on Fast Track regarding this adoption so that the greyhound is no longer registered as a GRV greyhound. Their new family must then register the greyhound as a family pet through the relevant local council.

If a friend adopts the greyhound or family member who is a GRV participant the adoption must be notified through Fast Track and the greyhound continues to be monitored as a GRV greyhound.

My racing greyhound has passed away. Can I bury him/her in my backyard?

The GRV rules require that the body of a deceased greyhound must be disposed of via a veterinary clinic, an animal cremation service approved by the Environmental Protection Authority, or a method approved by the Board, the Stewards or an authorised officer.

If you would like to use a different method, please contact GRV on (03) 8329 1111 to get advice on whether this alternate method is ok and can be approved.

Approved Lures

New Local Rules prevent greyhound sport participants from using any lures which have not been approved by the GRV Board. This rule creates an offence to use an unapproved lure as well as enhancing existing rules and offences relating to using unapproved lures and engaging in any live baiting practices.

The GRV Board has adopted a criteria based approval method for lures, having regard to the Board's existing policy position on the strict prohibition on animal products, animal welfare and safety considerations.

Criteria for an approved lure are that the lure:

- must be designed in a manner that is safe to be used by greyhounds and people, including but not limited, to having no sharp edges or any features that could cause an injury to a greyhound, and
- must be constructed of synthetic or artificial materials only and contains no animal materials, including but not limited to, bodily fluids such as blood and urine, parts of an animal such as dried hides, bones and hair.

Examples of "Acceptable" and "Not acceptable" lures

Acceptable lures

These lures are acceptable because they are made of synthetic or artificial materials only, and are safe to be used by people and greyhounds.



Source:

<http://greyhoundgear.com.au/>



Source:

<http://www.drsfostersmith.com/>



Source:

<https://www.worldforpets.com.au/>



Source: Greyhound Racing Victoria



Source: Greyhound Racing Victoria

Not acceptable lures

These lures are not acceptable because they are either not made of synthetic or artificial materials only, and/or not safe to be used by people and greyhounds.



Source: Greyhound Racing Victoria

This lure is not acceptable because it has sharp edges that may injure the operator or the greyhound.



Source: Greyhound Racing Victoria

This lure is not acceptable because it has sharp edges that may injure the operator or the greyhound, and it is made of lamb's wool, which is an animal material.



Source: Greyhound Racing Victoria

This lure is not acceptable because it is made of animal skin, which is an animal material.



Source: Greyhound Racing Victoria

This lure is not acceptable because it is made of animal skin, which is an animal material.



Source: Greyhound Racing Victoria

This lure is not acceptable because it is made of dyed lamb's wool, which is an animal product.



Source: <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/greyhound-live-baiting-not-in-perth-wa-racing-and-gaming-20150216-13gt6r.html>

This lure is not acceptable because it is made of animal carcasses and skins, which are animal products, and has a metal end that could cause injury to a greyhound.

How can I check if my lure is acceptable?

Acceptable lures must be designed in a manner that is safe for greyhounds and people. They also must be constructed of synthetic or artificial materials and contain no animal materials. If you are in doubt, contact GRV on (03) 8329 1111 to ask whether your lure is acceptable.

Can I buy a pre-approved lure?

Pre-approved lures are not yet available for purchase.

Can I use apply animal products, such as blood or urine, on an artificial lure?

No. A lure containing animal product will not meet the criteria set out by the Board for approved lures.

Can I use an artificial lure which is shaped like a rabbit?

It is not recommended that animal shaped lures are used but, if the two criteria set out by the Board are met, then you can use the lure.

Check with GRV on (03) 839 1111 if you're not sure.

Do lures include squeaky toys I use to encourage chasing in puppies?

Yes, lures include anything that is used to encourage greyhounds of any age to chase it.