



Changes to Local Rule 42.6

GRV is committed to improving re-homing opportunities for all greyhounds.

On 1 October 2017, LR 42.6 was amended to:

1. include specific minimum required re-homing attempts to avoid euthanasia;
2. require Owners to give their greyhound a minimum of 28 days wind down from racing related activities before making a decision to euthanase it; and
3. require Owners to submit a Notice of Intention to Euthanase their greyhound at least 14 days prior to euthanasia.

Failure to comply with the amended LR 42.6 will be a Serious Offence.

Minimum requirements for re-homing

Part 1: 28-day wind down

The 28-day wind down period is described in LR 42.6 (c) (i).

The purpose of the 28-day wind down is to ensure any retiring greyhound has enough time away from racing related activities (including breaking, education, trialling, training or racing) to maximise its chances of being re-homed, before a decision to euthanase is made.

During this period, Owners should undertake activities that help prepare the greyhound for transition to life as a pet, or arrange for such activities to occur. The wind down period should help the Owner understand the type of pet home their greyhound may be suitable for. More information is available in GRV's 'Racing to Retirement' guide.

A greyhound can be re-homed at any time during the wind down period.

The wind down period is not required if:

- the greyhound is **successfully re-homed without it** (although it is required prior to a GAP pre-entry assessment); or
- a registered veterinarian certifies that the greyhound is **suffering from an incurable condition or an injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life**, such that it is inhumane or would compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia; or
- the greyhound is **legally required to be euthanased** (e.g. council destruction order, court order etc).

Part 2: Reasonable efforts to re-home

Re-homing efforts are described in LR 42.6 (c) (ii).

From 1 October 2017, LR 42.6 will require Owners to make at least one genuine attempt of each of the following re-homing options after completing the 28 day wind down period and before lodging a Notice of Intention to Euthanase:

- (a) seek to re-home the greyhound with at least **two appropriate third parties**; and
- (b) seek the greyhound's admission to the **Greyhound Adoption Program**; and
- (c) seek to re-home the greyhound through at least one **other re-homing or rescue agency**.

The aim is to successfully re-home the greyhound, and re-homing attempts can be completed in any order. Owners must keep detailed records of their re-homing attempts and provide these records upon request. Once a greyhound is successfully re-homed, then the Owner is not required to pursue any other options.

The specified re-homing efforts are not required if:

- the greyhound is **successfully re-homed**; or
- a registered veterinarian certifies that the greyhound **is suffering from an incurable condition or an injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life**, such that it is inhumane or would compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia; or
- a registered veterinarian, or other person approved by GRV, certifies that the greyhound is displaying **significant behavioural characteristics that negatively impact on its suitability as a pet**;
or
- the greyhound is **legally required to be euthanased** (e.g. council destruction order, court order etc.).

Notice of Intention to Euthanase

The Notice of Intention to Euthanase (NoI) is described in LR 42.6 (b).

From 1 October 2017, any Owner intending to euthanase a greyhound, and having complied with all other re-homing requirements, **must** submit an NoI to GRV at least 14 days prior to the intended euthanasia date.

The NoI form (available via FastTrack) will require Owners to declare that:

- they have made the minimum reasonable efforts to re-home the greyhound required by 42.6 (c) (ii) as described above;
- OR**
- they have a behavioural exemption by providing appropriate certification that the greyhound is displaying behavioural characteristics that make it unsuitable for re-homing.

Euthanasia may only occur 14 days after an NoI is submitted to GRV. Where a behavioural exemption has been requested, GRV must first accept that a valid behavioural certificate has been submitted with the NoI.

Each NoI will remain active for 42 days from the date it is submitted to GRV.

If euthanasia is not carried out within 28 days after the 14-day Nol period (which totals 42 days after the Nol was submitted), and the Owner still intends to euthanase the greyhound, then the Owner can either:

- contact GRV via phone or email for an extension; or
- submit a new Nol to Euthanase.

The submission of an Nol does NOT require that the greyhound must be euthanased, if a suitable home can subsequently be found. Owners are encouraged to continue to seek a suitable long-term home during the notice period.

Owners will be required to submit supporting evidence of the satisfaction of any of the above conditions upon request by GRV.

The Nol is not required if:

- the greyhound is **successfully re-homed**; or
- a registered veterinarian certifies that the greyhound is **suffering from an incurable condition or an injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life**, such that it is inhumane or would compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia; or
- the greyhound is **legally required to be euthanased** (e.g. council destruction order, court order etc.).

Euthanasia certificates will still need to be lodged with GRV after the euthanasia has been carried out.

Admission to GAP - what is a reasonable effort?

Seeking admission to GAP is one of the minimum requirements for attempts to re-home. Booking a space at, and attending, a GAP pre-entry assessment is a reasonable effort. However, booking a space, but never attending, will not be considered reasonable.

Participants are reminded that they should contact GRV at the earliest possible time to increase their chances of gaining admission, as spaces fill quickly. Please note, there is no guarantee that a GAP space will be available. If no GAP space is available, it is expected the Owner will make alternative reasonable efforts to re-home the greyhound.

From early 2018, GRV will give priority spaces at pre-entry assessment sessions to greyhounds that are de-sexed and have completed the 28-day wind down period. These greyhounds will be offered a reserve space in a pre-entry assessment session as soon as one becomes available (usually within 2-4 weeks).

Entire greyhounds, and those that have not completed the 28-day wind down, will be allocated pre-entry assessment spaces as per the current system.

While de-sexing can be expensive, some veterinary clinics offer de-sexing at a lower cost. In some cases, de-sexing will be cheaper than the cost of keeping and feeding your greyhound for several months while on the pre-entry assessment waiting list.

For more information on how to book your greyhound into GAP please use the link provided - <http://gap.grv.org.au/about-gap/intake-model/>.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I trial my greyhound during the wind down period?

No. The greyhound must not engage in any racing related activity during the wind down period.

Failure to comply with the wind down period under LR 42.6 is a Serious Offence.

Can I trial or race my greyhound after a Nol has been lodged?

Yes, but you must cancel the Nol before you trial or race your greyhound again. When you are ready to retire your greyhound, you will need to commence the retirement process from the beginning.

The wind down activities must continue throughout the Nol period under LR42.6. Failure to comply with the wind down period is a Serious Offence.

What is regarded as reasonable efforts?

Reasonable efforts will be assessed on a case by case basis considering the participant's individual circumstances. At the very least, they must be genuine efforts, and a participant will be required to provide evidence of actions they undertook to try and re-home their greyhound, to show that they have meet all of the minimum re-homing requirements prescribed by LR 42.6.

An example of an **unreasonable** effort under section 42.6(c)(ii)(A) is a repeated unsuccessful re-homing attempt to the same family member or friend.

Failure to make reasonable efforts under LR 42.6 is a Serious Offence.

What type of evidence is required to show reasonable efforts?

Names and contact details for people who have been contacted as part of re-homing efforts, as well as dates and outcomes, will be required to be submitted on request by GRV.

Failure to comply with a request for records under LR 42.6 is a Serious Offence.

Do I have to submit a Nol for every greyhound?

Yes. A Nol is required to be individually submitted for each greyhound you intend to euthanase. The only exceptions to this requirement are when:

- (a) a registered veterinarian certifies that the greyhound is suffering is **suffering from an incurable condition or an injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life**, such that it is inhumane or would compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia; or
- (b) the greyhound is **legally required to be euthanased** (e.g. council destruction order, court order).

Failure to comply with the Nol requirements under LR 42.6 is a Serious Offence.

Can I euthanase the greyhound within the 14-day notice period?

No. During this time you should continue to seek suitable re-homing opportunities. Euthanasia must be the very last resort.

Failure to wait the 14-day notice period before euthanasia under LR 42.6 is a Serious Offence.

Does the Nol expire?

Yes. The Nol will expire 42 days after the date it is submitted to GRV. If you intend to euthanase the greyhound after this period, you will be required to either contact GRV for an extension or lodge a new Nol.

I have a greyhound that is aggressive towards people and/or other animals, what do I do?

If your greyhound is aggressive towards people and/or other animals, even after a wind down period has been concluded, this is an indicator that your greyhound may not be suitable for re-homing for behavioural reasons. If this is the case, and you are considering euthanasia, you must still:

- complete the 28-day wind down;
- obtain written certification from a veterinarian or a GRV-approved person to certify that the greyhound displays significant behavioural characteristics that negatively impact on its suitability as a pet; and
- submit a Nol and the written certification to GRV 14 days prior to euthanasia.

This also applies if the greyhound has some other severe behavioural issue that makes it unsuitable for re-homing.

I have a greyhound that has attacked a person or another animal causing a serious injury. I do not think it is safe to keep the greyhound for the 28-day wind down period, what can I do?

If your greyhound has attacked a person (including yourself) or another animal causing a **serious injury**, you should collect evidence of the attack and nature of injuries inflicted. For example, you should obtain copies of medical records, veterinary records and photographs, and the contact details for the person(s) involved in the attack. In these circumstances, you may choose to euthanase the greyhound without completing the 28-day wind down period or submitting an Nol. Provided you have evidence of the attack causing serious injury, the matter is unlikely to be referred to prosecutions.

A **serious injury** means an injury requiring medical or veterinary attention in the nature of—

- a. a broken bone; or
- b. a laceration (tearing of body tissue) requiring stitches; or
- c. multiple punctures caused by more than one bite from a dog; or
- d. a partial or total loss of sensation or function in a part of the body; or
- e. an injury requiring cosmetic surgery.

If I have evidence my greyhound is unsuitable for re-homing for behavioural reasons, can I decide to race or trial my dog again?

Yes you can, BUT when you decide to retire your dog you must complete the 28-day wind down again before you can submit your NOI.

I have a seriously unwell or injured greyhound, what do I do?

Animal welfare is critical to every decision made by GRV and participants. If your greyhound is seriously unwell or injured, and your veterinarian believes that the greyhound is likely to continue to suffer if it were to remain alive, you may arrange for the euthanasia of your greyhound without undertaking the 28-day wind down, re-homing efforts or NoI.

In these circumstances, the veterinary practitioner must certify in writing that the greyhound is suffering from an incurable condition or an injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life. You must provide this written certification, along with the euthanasia certificate, when notifying GRV of the euthanasia.

The medical exemption will only apply to **serious** medical conditions and injuries. Minor and moderate illness and injury where pain and discomfort can be adequately managed during treatment, without a marked reduction in the greyhound's quality of life, will not be accepted under a medical exemption.

What type of evidence is required under the legal or medical exemptions to a NoI?

When a medical exemption is sought, written evidence from a registered veterinarian or a GRV-approved person will be required and must be submitted with the euthanasia certificate. In these circumstances, the veterinary practitioner must certify in writing that the greyhound is suffering from an incurable condition or an injury that causes significant pain or discomfort or a marked reduction in quality of life.

In circumstances where a legal exemption is sought, supporting evidence may include a copy of a court order, council destruction order or a VCAT directive.

It is a Serious Offence not to provide supporting evidence.

Who does rule 42.6 apply to?

This rule applies to ALL Victorian Owners, regardless of where the greyhound is located or where a euthanasia occurs.

I am the Owner, but another person keeps and cares for my greyhound. How do I comply?

To ensure you comply with this rule, you must make it clear to the person caring for your greyhound that Victoria has very specific rules about the retirement, re-homing and euthanasia of greyhounds. You must ensure you are consulted on ALL decisions regarding the management of your greyhound.

It would be helpful to provide the person caring for your greyhound with a copy of the rule and this Fact Sheet. You should also consider entering into a written rearing/education/training agreement to ensure both you, and the person caring for your greyhound, understand your expectations for your greyhound's care, and the rules you are subject to.

If re-homing attempts are unsuccessful and you decide to euthanase your greyhound, you will need to complete the NoI through your FastTrack account and have evidence of your re-homing attempts.

My greyhound lives and races interstate, how do I comply?

To ensure you comply with this rule, you must make it clear to the person caring for your greyhound that Victoria has very specific rules about the retirement, re-homing and euthanasia of greyhounds. You must ensure you are consulted on ALL decisions regarding the management of your greyhound. It would be helpful to provide the person caring for your greyhound with a copy of the rule and this Fact Sheet. You should also consider entering into a written rearing/education/training agreement to ensure both you, and the person caring for your greyhound, understand your expectations for your greyhound's care, and the rules you are subject to. If re-homing attempts are unsuccessful and you decide to euthanase your greyhound, you will need to complete the NoI through your FastTrack account and have evidence of your re-homing attempts.