

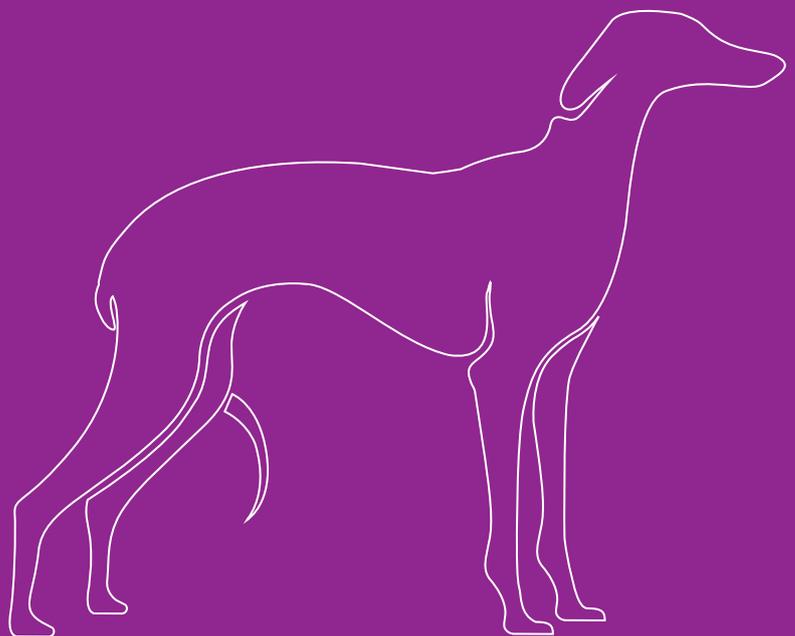
# Greyhound



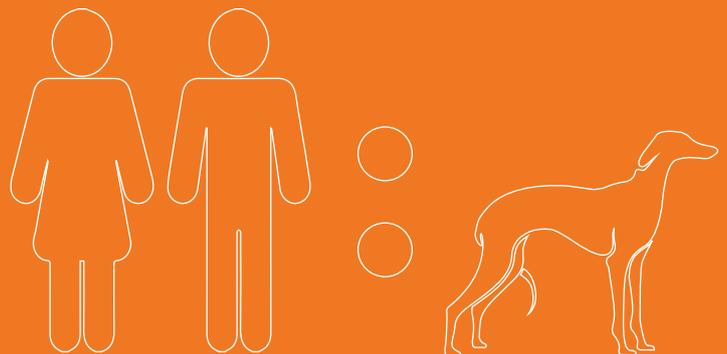
CODE OF PRACTICE

Support Booklet

## PART 2: Facility Construction



# 2 Facility Construction

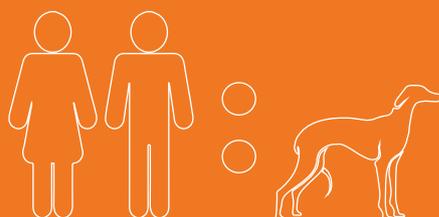


# Facility Construction

## Need To Know



- Unless GRV identified any welfare or safety issues, existing establishments don't need to meet the facility requirements of the Code as set out in Section 6.7 - a "grandfather clause" applies.
- However, all new, upgrades, replacements and additions to facilities (as opposed to minor repairs such as repairing existing mesh, doors or walls) that occur after 1 January 2020, must be compliant with the Code.
- A minimum of two physical barriers between greyhounds and escape are required.





# Existing Establishments and Compliance with the Code

## What is it?

The Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds states:

*Existing establishments may delay compliance with section 6.7 of this Code (Facilities), as far as the provisions relate to facility construction, where all facilities must be compliant upon their replacement, or by a date specified by GRV where any welfare or safety issues are identified at that establishment referable to non-compliant facilities.*

This means that existing establishments are not required to meet the facility requirements of the Code, as set out in Section 6.7, by 1 January 2020.

From 1 January 2020, if GRV identifies any welfare or safety issues at your establishments facilities, you may be given a direction to rectify your facilities in line with the Code.

All new or upgrades to facilities that occur after 1 January 2020, will need to be compliant with the Code. Minor repairs such as repairing existing mesh, doors or walls of existing establishments should not constitute an upgrade which would trigger compliance requirements.



# Code Compliance and interaction with State Planning and Building Requirements

## What is it?

The Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds stipulates minimum welfare conditions required for facilities that house greyhounds. In most cases, the Code doesn't stipulate construction standards.

This means that when you are determining how to renovate, extend or build new facilities, you will need to consider how you will meet the Code requirements (for example, kennel and yard sizes) and any relevant State based planning and building requirements administered by your Local Council.

You should also check with your Local Council to make sure you have access to the right reference materials to help you determine what these Local Council requirements are. A key reference document on planning can be found within the Statewide *Planning requirements for racing dog keeping and training*.

Link: [https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0030/107967/Planning-requirements-for-racing-dog-keeping-and-training.pdf](https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0030/107967/Planning-requirements-for-racing-dog-keeping-and-training.pdf)

## ! What is required?

When considering the construction or renovation of facilities at your establishment:

- read the Victorian Government *Planning requirements for racing dog keeping and training* (see above) to understand how planning permit requirements may affect the proposed use of your property
- contact your Local Council for clarification on what permit(s), if any, you may need.

## ! Questions to ask your Local Council:

When you contact your Local Council for clarification about planning and building permits that may be needed before construction begins, it's helpful to give them the following information:

- The address and planning zone of your property. You can go to the following link to check your planning zone; <https://mapshare.maps.vic.gov.au/vicplan/>
- The number of dogs and other animals you have
- The activities that you intend undertake
- The existing infrastructure that you have at your property, such as kennels, bull rings, training runs
- Details of your proposed new facilities

Ensure that you write down the time / date of the call and who (name and position) you spoke to, the questions you asked and their answers. It's also useful to follow up your phone call in writing.

GRV will be developing additional material that can help you plan for a meeting with your Local Council. This will be available on the Greyhound Care and Standards website.



# Barriers to escape

## What is it?

The Code requires a minimum of two physical barriers between greyhounds and escape, with the door to a greyhound's pen considered the first physical barrier.

Greyhound pens (meaning any structure designed to house greyhounds or puppies) must be:

- kept in good repair with no holes or inward facing sharp edges, nails or broken wire etc
- constructed in such a way as to prevent greyhounds in neighbouring pens making unsafe contact through, or over the top of the pen wall/fence
- constructed in a manner that prevents greyhounds from being injured, escaping or jumping out.

Barriers to escape must be at least 1.2 metres high.

A Victorian Government Barriers to escape toolkit with more information about this topic can be found on the Animal Welfare Victoria webpage.

## ! What is required?

- Read Section [4.5 Security](#) and [6.7.5 Barriers to escape](#) of the Code to understand your obligations.

## Records to be kept:

- There is no requirement to complete a Protocol

A Protocol is not required.

Links for more information:

*Animal Welfare Victoria*





# Management of isolation housing

## What is it?

Isolation housing is an area of separate housing that is used to house greyhounds diagnosed with, or suspected of having, an infectious disease. For example, it could be used for a greyhound diagnosed with kennel cough.

Your EHMP Protocol will need to identify whether you have an isolation facility at your establishment, or whether you will have an agreement with your vet that includes the use of their isolation facilities.

### **Practical Tip: Vet agreements and use of an isolation housing facility**

When next speaking with your vet, ask them if they have isolation housing facilities.

If they don't, ask around to find a vet that does have one and make sure you have an arrangement in place in case you need to use it.

If you have isolation housing at your establishment, and it is not being used for greyhounds with infectious diseases, it could also be used to carry out isolation training of greyhounds.

## What is required?

- Read [Section 6.7.3 Isolation Housing](#) of the Code to understand your obligations.
- Complete an Isolation Housing Protocol

## Records to be kept:

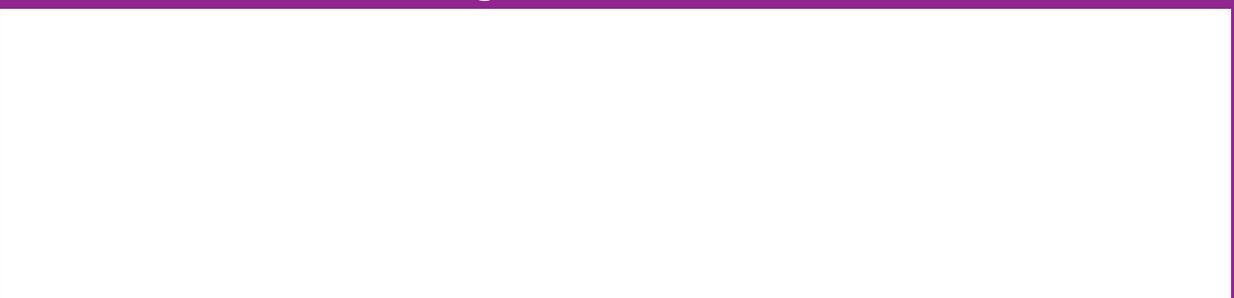
- Isolation Housing Protocol as part of your EHMP.

## The EHMP Protocol

The Code does not provide a minimum protocol for the management of Isolation Housing. This means that you will need to write one yourself.

An example Isolation Housing Protocol can be found on the GRV Greyhound Care and Standards Code of Practice webpage.

### Protocol for Isolation Housing



### Links for more information:

*Agriculture Victoria: Managing Biosecurity in Victoria*  
*Animal Welfare Victoria*





# Minimum housing size requirements

## What is it?

The Code specifies requirements for the minimum size of housing for greyhounds being kept at an establishment. Please note that, for existing establishments, the “grandfather rule” will apply to the construction requirements of these facilities that existed prior to 1 January 2020.

The Code’s dimensions are minimum requirements, not maximum. If you would like to exceed these requirements, there is no barrier to doing so.

Key areas to consider are:

- greyhounds of differing ages, size and activity are kept in correct and appropriate minimum housing sizes
- yards and pens are constructed in a correct manner
- greyhounds in neighbouring pens should not be able to make unsafe contact
- beds are raised, sheltered from the elements and large enough to allow each greyhound to lay fully stretched out
- flooring of kennel and sleeping areas must be impervious to liquids to assist in cleaning and disinfecting as well as ensuring adequate drainage

### Practical Tip: Impervious

The race day kennels at Geelong and Warrnambool use Altro Classic 25 flooring as it is impervious, easy to install, maintain and clean. Other kennels use marine grade plywood.

If you use sealant-based materials (such as paint, or abrasive paint), when installing, ensure it sets properly to prevent it from flaking. You should also monitor it regularly to ensure it remains intact and ensure that’s is not too abrasive or slippery when wet.

## ! What is required?

- Read Section [6.7.2 Minimum Housing](#), including [Table 2. Minimum pen sizes for indoor and outdoor housing](#) of the Code to understand your obligations

## Records to be kept:

- There are no record keeping requirements.

A Protocol is not required.

### Links for more information:

*Greyhound Care and Standards: Minimum Housing Infographic*





# Outdoor facilities: weatherproof areas

## What is it?

To ensure that outdoor housing pens and day yards are compliant with the Code, they must be suitably constructed to provide minimum sized weatherproof sleeping areas.

Day yards may be used as exercise yards for extended unsupervised exercise but should contain a weatherproof area.

A construction toolkit with more information about this topic can be found on the Animal Welfare Victoria webpage.

The outdoor weatherproof area required per greyhound will change depending on the age and number of greyhounds kept together. Note also that the Code's grandfather rule may apply to construction requirements for establishments which existed prior to 1 January 2020.

Age of greyhound	Number of greyhounds in kennel	Minimum sqm of weatherproof area
Over 16 weeks	1	3sqm
Over 16 weeks - 12 months	Extra 1	+1 sqm
Over 12 months of age	Extra 1	+1.5sqm

## ! What is required?

- Read Section [6.7.6 Construction of housing pens and yards - Weatherproof area](#) of the Code to understand your obligations.

### Records to be kept:

- There are no record keeping requirements.

A Protocol is not required.

Links for more information:

*Animal Welfare Victoria*





# Construction of indoor kennel facilities

## What is it?

Section 6.7.7, construction of indoor kennel facilities, applies to any indoor facility.

There are specific requirements for the use of enclosed facilities such as converted shipping containers, that can be sealed up (i.e. totally enclosed) and where there is limited ventilation.

For totally enclosed kennels, key areas to consider:

- air circulation must be controlled (minimum of eight changes per hour) with the objective to remove foul odours
- temperature must be maintained between 16 - 24 degrees Celsius
- a backup alarm system is installed in the event of power failure or breakdown

### **Practical Tip: Fully enclosed kennels (i.e. converted shipping containers) and air circulation**

Powered whirlybirds, roof vents or similar can ensure appropriate air circulation.

Air flow monitors, attached to an alert system, can assist you regulate airflow in case you are offsite, as can CCTV.

More generally, the Code requires that indoor kennel facilities have (noting that the Code's grandfather rule may apply to construction requirements for establishments which existed prior to 1 January 2020):

- roof height of indoor kennels (outside a sleeping area) must allow greyhounds to stand on their hind legs with their front paws raised above their heads (a common stance for an excited greyhound)
- sleeping areas must have solid partitions at least 1 metre high on three sides
- beds be raised off the floor and large enough to allow the greyhound to lay down comfortably
- all internal surfaces of indoor kennel walls must be constructed of impervious, solid, washable materials, so they can be easily cleaned and disinfected
- for outdoor housing, sleeping areas must be protected from wind, rain, sun and extremes of weather
- for outdoor housing, beds must not be constructed predominantly of concrete or metal and must contain warm, soft, dry bedding.



## What is required?

- Read Section **6.7.7 Construction of indoor kennel facilities** of the Code to understand your obligations.

## Records to be kept:

- There are no record keeping requirements.

## A Protocol is not required.

### Links for more information:

*Animal Welfare Victoria*





# Toileting yards, exercise yards and day yards

## What is it?

Whilst noting that the Code's grandfather rule may apply to construction requirements for establishments which existed prior to 1 January 2020, the Code has specific requirements for:

- Toileting Yards
  - o A minimum of 5sqm is required per greyhound. No more than four greyhounds may be toileted together.
- Exercise yards
  - o Must be at least 20sqm (with a width of 4m) for the first greyhound and 10sqm for each additional greyhound.
  - o Exercise in these yards must be fully supervised
- Day yards
  - o Must have at least 3 sqm that offers protection from the natural elements
  - o Min 10sqm per greyhound, to a max of 8 greyhounds and
  - o contain a raised bed

A Victorian Government Construction toolkit can be found on the Animal Welfare Victoria webpage.

## ! What is required?

- Read Section **6.7.8 Toileting yards, 6.7.9 Exercise yards and 6.7.10 Day yards** of the Code to understand your obligations.

## Records to be kept:

- There are no record keeping requirements.

A Protocol is not required.

Links for more information:

*Animal Welfare Victoria*





# Mating, whelping and lactating areas

## What is it?

The Code has specific requirements for the areas where natural mating, whelping of litters, and feeding of puppies by their mother are conducted.

Key areas to consider are:

- Mating areas must be physically isolated from all other greyhounds at the establishment
- Whelping / lactating areas must:
  - o be temperature controlled
  - o contain bedding that is soft, absorbent and easily cleaned, disinfected or disposed of
  - o have raised sleeping areas
  - o use whelping boxes with solid sides which is designed to keep puppies warm, free from draughts and contain them so they don't escape
  - o include an area for the female greyhound to rest where her puppies cannot reach her
- In a cold environment, a heat source should be provided for the puppies, such as a 25 watt lamp, in the first few weeks of life.

## ! What is required?

- Read Section **6.7.12 Whelping / lactating areas** of the Code to understand your obligations.

## Records to be kept:

- There are no record keeping requirements.

A Protocol is not required.



# Training facilities

## What is it?

Training facilities such as circular training facilities (bull rings), slipping tracks, galloping runs, trial tracks, starting boxes and Club race kennel sized crates/ cages have specific requirements under the Code.

Keys areas to consider are:

- Slipping tracks and galloping runs, used to train two greyhounds simultaneously, must have a minimum width of 3.6 metres.
- Greyhounds known to be incompatible with other greyhounds must be muzzled at all times while using training facilities.

## ! What is required?

- Read Section **6.7.13 Training facilities** of the Code to understand your obligations.

## Records to be kept:

- There are no record keeping requirements.

A Protocol is not required.