

Rehoming Guidelines



About

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) promotes and supports the rehoming of greyhounds into appropriate homes.

This guidance sets out GRV's criteria for greyhound rehoming obligations under the rules of racing (in particular Local Rule 12.1) and the *Victorian Government's Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds* (Code).

Participants will need to check the Code for any additional rehoming requirements where relevant.

GRV seeks to ensure all greyhounds are:

- rehomed to an appropriate home unless a dog has a specific serious medical, behavioural, or legal exemption
- prepared for rehoming through appropriate procedures and activities (for example, a wind-down period), as well as during the rehoming itself.

Requirements

Any person in charge of a GRV greyhound, including registered persons must ensure that a person or organisation adopting the greyhound:

- has been involved in reasonable discussion and information sharing about the dog and their needs,
- has the ability to care for the greyhound, and
- is committed to providing an appropriate home with an appropriate standard of care.

Municipal council pounds or shelters

Unless authorised by GRV (in its absolute discretion), a registered person must not surrender a greyhound to a municipal council pound, or a registered shelter that provides pound services for the local government area in which any connections to the greyhound reside.

Any written request or questions about surrendering a greyhound to a municipal council or shelter should be submitted to GRV via retirements@grv.org.au. Urgent requests can be made by phone on 03 8329 1100.

When making a request, you will need to provide details as to whether:

- there are any other reasonable options for the care of the greyhound, and
- the welfare of the greyhound is at such risk that surrender is the only reasonable option.

Rehoming Policy



Appropriate home

An appropriate home may include*:

- the owner (or syndicate manager) retaining the greyhound as a pet, or
- rehoming a greyhound to a person who has the ability to care for the greyhound, and is committed to providing a long-term home with an appropriate standard or care, or
- surrendering a greyhound to a greyhound rehoming program managed by GRV or equivalent program authorised by an interstate greyhound racing controlling body, or
- surrendering a greyhound to a rehoming organisation (including a community foster care network) that has the ability to appropriately care for and rehome the greyhound.

Inappropriate home

Unless authorised by GRV, a greyhound must not be rehomed to*:

- a municipal council pound
- a registered shelter providing pound services in the municipality where connections to the greyhound reside
- an adopter where the person rehoming the greyhound, knows, or should reasonably know the adopter:
 - has insufficient means to support the welfare of the greyhound, or
 - is physically incapable of caring for the greyhound, or
 - will use the greyhound for blood donation, medical purposes, research or teaching, or
 - has a history of surrendering animals to municipal council pounds or shelters, or has an intention to do so, or
 - intends to breed with the greyhound, or has previously bred with a greyhound outside the greyhound racing industry, or
 - intends to use the greyhound for hunting, or has previously used a retired greyhound for hunting, or
 - has been found guilty of an offence under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*.

*not an exhaustive or complete list, and provided as an overview only

Rehoming Policy cont.



Exemptions to rehoming requirements

Serious medical condition:

Where:

- a condition is diagnosed and certified by a registered veterinary practitioner as a serious injury, or serious illness, including serious mental health condition, such as the greyhound's ongoing quality of life is, or likely to be, poor; and
- a registered veterinary practitioner considers euthanasia to be the most appropriate course of action.

Serious behavioural condition:

Where a greyhound:

- causes, or significantly contributes to the death of a person, or another dog
- has caused a bite injury to a person, or another dog which requires veterinary attention for:
 - a broken bone,
 - tearing of body tissue requiring sutures or equivalent to heal,
 - multiple punctures caused by more than one bite,
 - partial or total loss of sensation of function in a part of the body, or
 - an injury requiring cosmetic surgery.

Note: Where a greyhound has caused a bite injury to a person, or another dog which requires medical or veterinary attention, a behavioural exemption may not apply if the dog was being teased, abused, or assaulted.

Failed GAP temperament assessment(s) :

Where a greyhound has had a wind-down period of at least 28 days, but subsequently has:

- at least one Level 3 fail (or equivalent) at a GRV approved temperament assessment, or
- two fails (Levels 1 or 2, or equivalent) at a GRV approved temperament assessment and:
 - the first fail was at least 28 days prior to the second fail, and
 - socialisation activities as recommended by the first GRV approved temperament assessment continued through the interval between assessments.

Behavioural rehoming exemptions do not apply where a greyhound:

- fails a single GRV approved temperament test at Level 1 or 2, or
- fails two GRV approved temperament tests at Level 1 or 2 where the interval between assessments was less than 28 days, or
- fails two GRV approved temperament tests at a Level 1 or 2 where socialisation activities recommended by the first GRV approved temperament assessment were not continued between assessments