



JOIN IN THE CHASE!



CONTACT US

If you are interested in taking your first steps into our exciting sport please contact our Syndication Coordinator for more information on how to get started!

EMAIL: getinvolved@grsa.com.au

For all the fields, results and general information on greyhound racing in South Australia visit our website www.grsa.com.au.



Your quick guide to getting involved in the sport of greyhound racing



Greyhound racing is the fastest growing racing code in the country with over 4,000 meetings conducted annually at TAB tracks across South Australia, 7 days a week!

Of the three codes, greyhound racing is considered the most affordable in which to be involved. Ownership provides a unique thrill, and that special winning feeling when your greyhound is successful can't be matched!

This booklet is intended to give you a quick guide into greyhound racing and getting your 'paw' in the door of this exciting sport.

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Ownership

Owning a racing greyhound is likely to be your first step into the industry. There are different levels of ownership from sole ownership, partnerships through to syndicates.

It's a great thrill to watch your greyhound race and share the enjoyment with family and friends. There are many advantages of owning a greyhound compared to other codes. Generally, it is more affordable, you will likely get to see them race more often, you can get up close and really get to know your greyhound and at the end of their career there is the possibility of you adopting your star through Greyhounds As Pets South Australia (GAP SA).

Watching your greyhound race is a great source of excitement. Whether you have an Adelaide Cup contender, or a greyhound in the lower grades, that winning feeling is much the same! If you are lucky enough to own a local champion like Luna Jinx, Worm Burner or Sennachie, the prizemoney can be lucrative and you could find them racing in prestigious Group 1 races for anywhere from \$75,000 to \$1,000,000!

You can determine the level of involvement and the amount of money you are willing to spend by choosing the ownership option that best suits you.

How do I become an owner?

Becoming an owner in greyhound racing is easy and just requires some quick paperwork to be submitted to GRSA. There is no cost involved to register.



What are your responsibilities?

Owners, whether it be one person or a group, are responsible for the costs and tasks below associated with their race dog:

Purchase

The cost of purchasing your greyhound whether a race dog or pup.

Naming

If you have purchased an unraced greyhound or puppy you will need to register them with a race name with GRSA. It is a fun and exciting time naming your greyhound, but be sure to take your time as this name could find itself on a future trophy!

Kenneling

Trainers will often charge a kenneling fee to have the greyhound in their kennels.

Veterinary

Veterinary costs such as immunisations as well as any associated injury treatments and checks.

Rehoming and Boarding

Following their racing career, there is a \$60 fee to enter your greyhound into Greyhounds As Pets SA. There are also additional kenneling costs while they await adoption.

Ownership Types

Whether you own a greyhound outright, or as part of a group of friends, or through a syndicate, the experience of ownership is very rewarding. You will have the opportunity to meet your greyhound and receive personal updates from trainers, all adding to the excitement of ownership. Attending race meetings in South Australia is free with hospitality discounts provided to industry members giving owners every chance to see their greyhound race.

Sole Ownership

As a sole owner you will have all control over decisions regarding your racing greyhound, such as your choice of trainer. It also means that all costs associated with the greyhound are your responsibility. However, if your greyhound experiences success, once the trainer is paid their percentage, the remaining prizemoney is all yours!

Partnerships

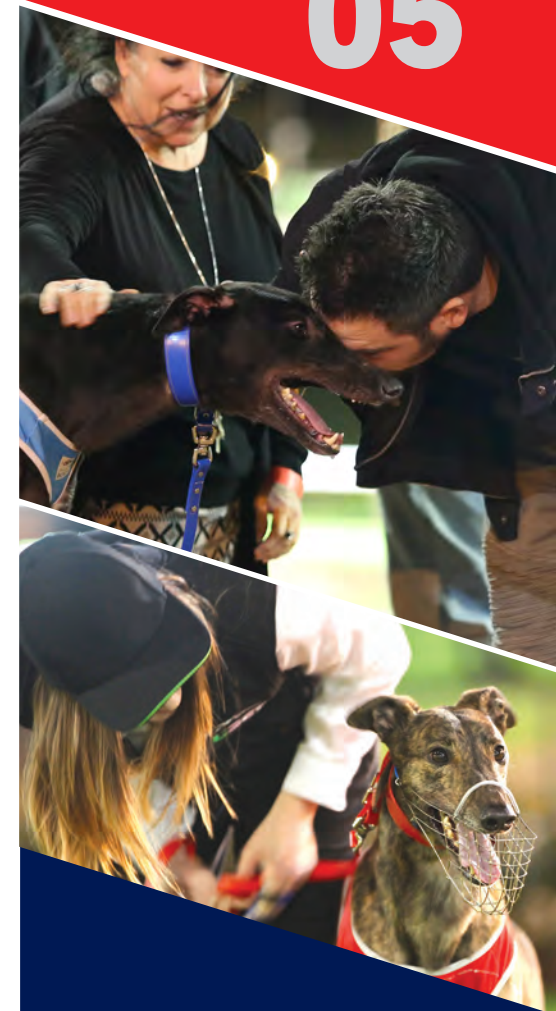
A partnership consists of up to four people and is a great way to become involved in greyhound racing with family, friends or colleagues. It will help spread the associated costs and also give you the opportunity to share the experience with others.

Syndication

People from all walks of life can participate in greyhound racing and syndication is a great way to get started.

A syndicate can consist of anywhere from two to 20 or more members who own the racing greyhound and share the costs of purchase, rearing, vets, training and, of course, the winnings! Syndicates work in much the same way as a partnership, however there is an appointed Syndicate Manager who is responsible for managing the affairs of the ownership group.

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Get out on the track!

Get hands on and register as an Owner Attendant so you can learn to box the greyhounds or catch them after the race.

This is a great way to enhance the ownership experience and get up close and personal with your greyhound.

To become an Owner Attendant you are required to complete a questionnaire and practical test.

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Getting started

If you are new to greyhound racing you can talk to our Syndication Coordinator who will help you take your first steps into our exciting sport.

1

Get a group together

There are a number of syndicates registered that come about through sporting clubs, pubs, family, friends or other groups, all keen to experience the thrill of greyhound racing. All costs are spread between the members of the syndicate, so you can enjoy the thrill of owning a greyhound without having to invest a large sum of money up front.

2

Syndicate Manager

If you are starting a syndicate you will need to decide who will be your Syndicate Manager. The Syndicate Manager signs all the paperwork on behalf of the syndicate and is responsible for the distribution of prizemoney to syndicate members. The Syndicate Manager also provides members with regular updates on the greyhound's progress and deals directly with the nominated Public Trainer.

3

Finding a trainer

If you are new to the industry and looking to get involved, the best way to find a trainer is to talk with GRSA's Syndication Coordinator who can provide you with general direction and facilitate contact with SA trainers.

The added benefit is that our Syndication Coordinator and trainer will guide you in the purchase of a greyhound best suited to your budget, whether that be a current race dog, a younger dog that is ready to start its career, or even a pup. Whichever you choose, it is highly recommended for a new owner to make contact with a trainer before any greyhound purchase is made.

You can contact GRSA's Syndication Coordinator by emailing getinvolved@grsa.com.au

Once a greyhound is ready to race, trainers may charge a training fee while others will accept a percentage of any prizemoney generated by the greyhound. It is important to discuss the training costs with your chosen trainer prior to any training commencing. The Syndication Coordinator can also guide your understanding of typical industry arrangements.

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Purchasing a greyhound

Once you have decided which ownership option best suits you and determined your budget for buying your budding track star, there are a few options to consider when choosing your racing greyhound.

PURCHASING A CURRENT RACEDOG

The cost to purchase a greyhound that is already racing or ready-to-race will depend on their ability or potential to earn. While this cost may be higher than purchasing a pup, the bonus is that associated costs of rearing and breaking-in have already been covered. Purchasing a racing greyhound also allows you to get in on the racing action sooner! The greyhound's previous form gives an important insight and guide to the likely success they will have on the track.

A greyhound that is deemed 'city class' and able to compete for higher prize money may cost \$10,000 or more. However, greyhounds can be purchased for less to compete in lower company and still provide good returns as well as providing social fun for their owners.

Racing greyhounds can be bought directly from registered owners. There are a number of industry publications available that have information on greyhounds available for purchase. Having a relationship with a trainer or industry participant will also be beneficial as they will be able to use their knowledge and connections to assist in finding a suitable greyhound.

The positives

- Their form from trials or races will give an indication of the potential of the greyhound to win against how much you want to pay
- Get to see them race sooner

Things to consider

- You are less likely to buy a race dog that could become a champion - who would sell that?
- You will not have owned the dog for its whole career

Contact our Syndication Coordinator for advice on how to buy your first racing greyhound.



BUYING A PUP

For an owner, the process of buying a pup and experiencing the full process from selection, to rearing, and education, through to racing, is arguably the most rewarding experience in our sport. Plus, they can end up on your couch after they retire as well! The cost of buying a pup will vary depending on a number of factors such as the quality of their pedigree, the success of the breeder and also the pup's age. Older pups will generally cost more as breeders take into account costs associated with rearing up to that point. As a general guide, puppies range in price from \$1,500 to \$10,000 or more depending on those variables.

If you are thinking of buying a pup it is important to remember there will be ongoing costs associated with rearing, breaking-in and pre-training up until it starts racing (from 18 months of age (minimum), but many will not race until they are closer to 2 years old. You will need to keep this in mind and have it factored into your budget.

Outlined below are estimated costs for different points of a growing pup's lifecycle:

Boarding/rearing: Approximately \$50 to \$70 per week per pup. If you buy a pup at, say, 5 months of age, it will cost you approximately \$2,000 before they are ready to be educated at a track from about 14 months of age.

Breaking in: This is the period where your greyhound is educated to come out of boxes and chase an artificial lure – as a guide the cost during this period is usually \$100-150 per week for 4 weeks.

Pre-training: This usually costs from \$75-\$100 per week for an 8 to 16 week period depending on when the dog is ready to commence racing.

The positives

- You own the greyhound through their whole journey and you may just pick out a champion from the litter! Your pup's potential is completely unknown.

Things to consider

- It can be a long wait with associated costs before your greyhound makes the track
- You may spend money preparing your pup for racing only to find that they're not interested and prefer to spend their time on a couch!

Summary

There are arguments for either buying a pup or a ready-to-race greyhound. If you are wanting to get racing as soon as you can, purchasing a racedog is likely to be the best option for you.

If you are happy to wait, buying a puppy is a great option so that you can experience all the stages of the greyhound's career.

Talk to our Syndication Coordinator to discuss your options and how to proceed.

Greyhound timeline

A quick guide to the stages your greyhound will go through to make it to the track.

0-3 MONTHS

Your greyhound's first few months of life will be spent with mum and siblings learning and growing. Your pup will be registered with GRSA and receive all their vaccinations.

3-6 MONTHS

At 12 weeks your pup will receive their earbrand and microchip for identification. At this age pups may begin to be advertised for sale. Pups will make their way to the rearing yards for room to grow!

6-12 MONTHS

During this time pups remain in the rearing yards where they grow, mature and exercise. A quality diet is provided so they can reach their full potential. Pups receive C5 inoculations at 12 months.

12-18 MONTHS

The next step is education, a training program designed to prepare your greyhound for racing. This involves teaching them to chase the lure, practicing in the starting box and racetrack trials which will give insight into their potential on the track.

Now comes the exciting part begins! You will need to register their race name with GRSA. Your greyhound will likely have a rest period after completing its education before preparations and training for their first race begin.



GET RACING!

Greyhounds tend to start their careers between 18 months and 2 years of age and they generally race up until 4 to 5 years of age.

As your greyhound races it will progress through different grades and categories of racing. It will start as a Maiden looking to win its first race, contest Juvenile races with other younger dogs and begin as a Grade 6 dog. When your greyhound wins they progress up in grade, so if they win a Grade 5 at a track their next race there will be in Grade 4 and so on, up to Grade 1 and Open company.

Find out more on grading on our website grsa.com.au or contact our Syndication Coordinator.

Beyond the winning post

Greyhounds make great family pets and once your greyhound has finished its career as a racing dog, you or one of your syndicate members may choose to keep them as a pet.

Alternatively, if you are unable to keep your racing greyhound as a pet, Greyhounds As Pets South Australia [GAP SA] will provide the opportunity for them to be rehomed in a responsible and timely manner. The interest in greyhounds as pets has never been higher as the message about their placid, affectionate natures is now well known!

Most retired greyhounds do not require large amounts of exercise. A short walk once a day is normally enough, and they are more than happy to while away the rest of the day on the couch! They have easy to maintain short coats, don't require as much to feed as you may think or need a huge backyard to make them happy.

Greyhounds that go through GAP SA first enter the foster program to help them adjust to life as a pet before they are adopted to their new homes. There is a fee for entering your greyhound into GAP SA as well as costs involved in kenneling your greyhound.

To find out more about the Greyhounds as Pets SA visit www.gapsa.org.au.



Future Steps

Become a trainer

If you have caught the racing bug, becoming a trainer may be the next step to further involvement with greyhound racing!

If you enjoy working with the greyhounds you own, then training could be for you. Training can be financially and emotionally rewarding but confirming your ultimate decision to become a trainer will require some research.

GRSA can provide information on the process involved in becoming a trainer, which, while being relatively simple, is designed to ensure that the people entering our industry are doing so with the right intentions and have the welfare of the greyhound at heart at all times. The first step to becoming a trainer is to obtain an Owner Attendant license which you must hold for at least 6 months before applying for a Trainers license. Mentoring opportunities with a current trainer can be organised in many cases.

Many trainers commence training as a hobby before progressing their operations into part-time or full-time careers. The benefits of training include the enjoyment of working closely with the greyhounds, being your own boss, the social aspects of racing and spending a lot of time outdoors. You must also consider the demands of becoming a trainer. Greyhounds require a 24/7 commitment to ensure their welfare needs are met. The hours are long and you may need to travel fair distances to attend race meetings with no guarantee of income. You will also need

to make sure that you comply with any local council requirements with regard to land use and dog numbers, and you will need to have a suitable kennel set up.

It would be advisable to talk to a current trainer who will give you an indication of the time and resource commitments that are needed to become a successful trainer.

Breeding

As you get further involved, your interest may turn to breeding your own future racing champions.

Progressing into breeding requires extensive knowledge of the breed, long hours of hard work as well as a passion for the sport and the greyhound breed. It involves careful planning, research, financial outlay and then exceptional care of the breeding female and the litter. Prospective breeders also need to go through a registration process with GRSA before they start, with the majority of new breeders starting on a restricted 'Provisional' license before progressing to a full license. There are many people involved in the industry that can offer opinions and guidance on all aspects of breeding, from your selection of a brood bitch, picking a sire and caring for pups.

Breeding greyhounds is highly rewarding as you create a special bond with your pups from the moment they open their eyes to when they step out on to the track for the first time.

