

BACKGROUND

On 1st May 2022, the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR) made effective the following rule 24 -

24 Mandatory sterilisation of greyhounds retired as pets

- (1) Unless a greyhound is being accepted by an adoption agency approved by a Controlling Body that undertakes sterilisation, the owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the time of such retirement as a pet must ensure that the greyhound has been surgically sterilised by a veterinarian before allowing the greyhound to leave their care and custody, except where a veterinarian certifies after examining that greyhound, to the satisfaction of a Controlling Body, that being surgically sterilised would be detrimental to its welfare.
- (2) In submitting the required notification prescribed by rule 22(1)(a), a certificate of sterilisation by a veterinarian must be supplied for any retired greyhound to which this rule applies.

This rule effectively shifts the onus of sterilising a retiring greyhound from the person taking possession of the greyhound (per section 12, Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017) to the owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the time of their retirement.

POLICY

GRSA will commit to a financial contribution (“**the Sterilisation Contribution Scheme (SCS)**”) to either the owner or the person responsible for the greyhound (“**the Applicant**”) for the cost of the sterilisation procedure where –

- (a) The greyhound is being retired as a pet and not being accepted by an adoption agency approved by a Controlling Body that undertakes sterilisation (“**a recognised adoption agency**”); or,
- (b) The greyhound is a named greyhound; and,
- (c) The sterilisation procedure is performed by a veterinary surgeon; and,
- (d) The Applicant is the owner or the person responsible for the greyhound that incurred the financial burden of the sterilisation procedure.

Recognised adoption agencies

The following entities are recognised adoption agencies for the purposes of the sub-rule (*and retiring greyhounds to these agencies does not require sterilisation beforehand*) -

- (a) *Greyhounds as Pets SA (formally Greyhound Adoption Program SA) (“**GAP SA**”);*
- (b) *Any greyhound adoption program under the auspices of any other Controlling Body for greyhound racing in Australia or New Zealand;*
- (c) *An Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Accredited Veterinary School;*
- (d) *An approved veterinary school of an Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) school.*

ACCESSING THE SCHEME

Accessing the SCS requires -

- (a) The greyhound be a named greyhound; or,
- (b) The greyhound is correctly retired per R22 and R34, Greyhounds Australasia Rules; and L130 130, Local Rules. Where a greyhound is retired (or attempted to be retired) in circumstances that breach L130(1A), Local Rules, no rebate will be paid or, if already paid, GRSA will seek recovery of the payment by order of the Integrity Hearings Panel.

When the Applicant arranges to retire the greyhound to a person or entity that is not a recognised adoption agency, the Applicant must – before retiring the greyhound – ensure the greyhound is sterilised.

Upon sterilisation of the greyhound, the Applicant should receive a certificate of sterilisation and paid tax invoice (addressed to the Applicant) for the cost of the procedure. That paid tax invoice must contain an item that is the sterilisation procedure, with the cost of that procedure.

Within 10 days of the sterilisation procedure being performed, the owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time may make a claim under the SCS by lodging the sterilisation certificate (with the paid tax invoice).

Regardless of when the sterilisation procedure is performed, the owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the time of retirement must notify GRSA of the retirement, together with a copy of the sterilisation certificate. *This is done on the prescribed Form GAR106R (with a copy of the sterilisation certificate).*

Only one SCS claim be made for each greyhound.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

GRSA will contribute to the cost of the procedure, up to a maximum of \$375.00. If the procedure is over \$375.00, the Applicant will be out of pocket for the gap fee. Sterilisation is an elective procedure, and GRSA recommends that Applicants find out the cost of the procedure beforehand with the proposed veterinary clinic, to be fully aware of what the gap will be. The tax invoice for the procedure must be paid to the veterinary clinic before the contribution can be claimed. GRSA does not pay the veterinary clinic directly and only pays the person named on the paid tax invoice.

GRSA will contribute via electronic funds transfer to the account of the Applicant on file with GRSA. (Make sure the Applicant updates their account details with GRSA, should there be a change; or, supply their account details if not held by GRSA).

What GRSA will not contribute

GRSA will not contribute to –

- (i) An unpaid tax invoice;
- (ii) A paid tax invoice that is not from a veterinary surgeon or clinic;
- (iii) Any item on the paid tax invoice that does not relate to the sterilisation procedure;
- (iv) A tax invoice from an entity, not being a veterinary surgeon or clinic, for an 'adoption fee' (or similarly worded fee), regardless of whether that fee is for, or in part for, a proposed sterilisation procedure;
- (v) Any contribution of the procedure that is over \$375.00;
- (vi) Any other charges that arise in after care, or further care (acute or otherwise), of the greyhound, that relate to the sterilisation procedure.

LODGING WITH GRSA

To properly claim the contribution, the following must be lodged -

- (1) The sterilisation certificate (sterilisation of named greyhound) or GAR106R (sterilisation of retiring greyhound, per the retirement form);
- (2) Sterilisation certificate; and,
- (3) Paid tax invoice in the accepted form under this policy, made out to the Applicant

WHERE TO LODGE

- Greyhound Racing SA, 55 Cardigan St Angle Park (in person)
- Greyhound Racing SA PO Box 2352 Regency Park SA 5942 (post)
- animalwelfare@grsa.com.au (email with scanned documents)

HARDSHIP

GRSA may, in special circumstances if the Applicant is unable to pay for sterilisation upfront, make certain arrangements to pay the veterinary surgeon's tax invoice directly, up to the SCS maximum and only for the sterilisation procedure itemised on the tax invoice. The Applicant must still pay any gap fee to the veterinary surgeon, as well as any other item fee not covered by the SCS.

GRSA may ask the Applicant to provide evidence to support the Applicant's claim for special circumstances, including current financial circumstances and proposals, acceptable to the veterinary surgeon, to satisfy payment of the tax invoice in full (e.g., the gap fee). Any documents the Applicant provides should be dated within 6 weeks of supplying them.

Any application, consideration or grant of a claim for special circumstances does not change the requirement to sterilise under the local rule. *The greyhound cannot be retired (if not through a recognised adoption agency listed in this policy) unless it is sterilised.*

To apply for special circumstances, contact GRSA Animal Welfare *well before the intended retirement.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: *I want to sterilise my named greyhound that is still racing and continue to race. Can I do this?*

A: Yes. After you have your named greyhound sterilised, lodge the sterilisation certificate, together with the paid tax invoice to claim. (Please ensure the sterilisation certificate has enough detail for GRSA to identify the named greyhound).

Q: *When my sterilised, racing greyhound is retired, what paperwork do I need?*

A: Lodge the retirement form GAR106R and sterilisation certificate. (You cannot claim twice for sterilisation).

Q: *I am retiring my unsterilised greyhound to GAP SA. Do I need to sterilise my greyhound?*

A: No. GAP SA arranges sterilisation at GRSA's expense. You do not, however, receive any rebate.

Q: *I was retiring my unsterilised greyhound to GAP SA, but my greyhound did not pass its 'First Point Assessment'. What do I do now?*

A: Wait. GAP SA and/or GRSA Officers will provide you with guidance on the next steps, as a part of the feedback process on the assessment. You remain eligible for the contribution even if you later need to sterilise your greyhound per the sub-rule (and you paid for the procedure).

Q: *I am retiring my unsterilised greyhound for breeding. After breeding ends, do I need to sterilise them?*

A: Yes. You need to sterilise the greyhound *if you are not retiring to a recognised adoption agency, and* you need to lodge a new Form GAR106R with the sterilisation certificate. You can apply for the contribution then.

Q: *I want to retire my unsterilised greyhound as a pet to myself. Do I need to sterilise them?*

A: Yes. You need to lodge the Form GAR106R with your sterilisation certificate. You can also apply for the contribution then.

Q: *I am a trainer, and I am arranging the retirement of an unsterilised greyhound. Do I have to sterilise the greyhound?*

- A: Yes. If you are arranging retirement, and you are getting the greyhound sterilised, you must supply the sterilisation certificate for the Form GAR106R. If you paid for the sterilisation procedure, supply a paid tax invoice in your name and you can apply for the contribution.
- Q: *I am a trainer, and the owner is arranging and paying for sterilisation. Can I apply for the contribution?***
- A: No. The owner (or the person in whose name the paid tax invoice is made) can apply for the contribution. The person who incurs the expense is the person who claims.
- Q: *I am the trainer and paid for the sterilisation, but the owner is lodging the form. How do I get be rebate?***
- A: Ensure that you supply a copy of the paid tax invoice (addressed to you) and sterilisation certificate for the owner to lodge with the form. GRSA will pay the person named on the paid tax invoice only. If you do not receive the payment in a reasonable time, confirm with the owner that they lodged the form and contact GRSA Animal Welfare for assistance.
- Q: *I want to retire my unsterilised greyhound to an adoption agency that is not GAP SA (or the GAP of another Controlling Body). Do I need to sterilise my greyhound?***
- A: Yes. You need to lodge the Form GAR106R with your sterilisation certificate. You can also apply for the contribution then.
- Q: *I want to sterilise my greyhound (either as a named greyhound or retiring greyhound) but I cannot afford it at the moment. Do I need to still sterilise my greyhound?***
- A: Yes. Enquire with your veterinary surgeon about the cost of the procedure. Contact GRSA Animal Welfare well before you intend to retire your greyhound to discuss your financial position and options to comply. Remember, you cannot retire your greyhound in breach of the local rule.
- Q: *I want to retire my unsterilised greyhound but do not want to sterilise it or retire it to GAP SA (or the GAP of another Controlling Body). Will I breach the rules if I do so, without sterilising it?***
- A: Yes. GRSA monitors retired greyhound movements by a number of data matching and investigative methods. Breaches of the Greyhounds Australasia Rules or Local Regulatory Rules, including associated policies, may be further investigated under Inquiry, with the matter referred to Stewards or the Integrity Hearings Panel.

REFERENCES

- *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, sections 4, 5 and 42E
- *Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017*, section 12
- *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*, rules 105 and 106
- *Greyhound Racing SA Animal Welfare Policy*
- *Local Regulatory Rules*, rule 114

FOR ASSISTANCE

Contact GRSA Animal Welfare (see above “WHERE TO LODGE”) or telephone 08 8243 7100.