



Thursday 4 April 2024

## Stewards' Notice

### Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR)

#### Proposed amendments to the GAR

##### Call for submissions on proposed amendments to the GAR

Greyhounds Australasia (GA) proposes amendments to the *Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GAR)* in the following areas:

- Ear tattoo rules removal;
- Breeding rules;
- Prohibited substances; and,
- Welfare and racing.

The next step in this process is consultation with industry and relevant, external stakeholders and calling for submissions on the proposed amendments.

#### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

##### Ear tattoo rules removal

By July 2024, the requirement for ear tattoos for pups is proposed to end. GA and Controlling Bodies (including GRSA) are considering the expanded use of DNA fingerprints to further and better identify greyhounds. Microchips will remain the primary source of identification.

##### Breeding rules

GA seeks to consolidate various rules and policies, used by Controlling Bodies, into one set of rules to prescribe breeding (for example, number of litters and age of breeding females, fertility tests, veterinary certification and caesarean section). Adoption of a national approach to breeding will result in those provisions of our Local Rules being repealed (and adopting the national approach).

Further, GA seeks to strengthen rules and sanctions around exporting greyhounds and breeding units of semen.

##### Prohibited substances

GA seeks to prohibit the use of *Bisphosphonates*. Bisphosphonates are drugs that inhibit the normal biological mechanism for bone maintenance/repair, which can lead to increased bone fragility. Bisphosphonates can also cause retention of calcified cartilage in skeletally immature animals, leading to developmental orthopaedic disease.

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Further, GA seeks to add *ethinylestradiol* and/or *levonorgestrel* to the exempted substances available for veterinary prescription for the control of oestrus in female greyhounds.

### **Welfare and racing**

GA seeks to amend the GAR to clarify rules relating to welfare and racing. This includes amendment of the rules relating to the definition of “*presentation*” and “*presented*”. Presentation or presented means a greyhound is presented for an event as from the time commencing at the appointed scratching time of the event the greyhound is nominated for, and which continues until the time a greyhound is removed from the racecourse after the event unless directed by the Stewards pursuant to GAR 94(2). Where a greyhound is presented for an event and the Controlling Body requires a sample to be taken from the greyhound, presentation at the event is deemed to continue until the sample is taken notwithstanding the scratching of the greyhound.

GA also seeks to amend GAR 76 relating to measures imposed in the event of a greyhound being scratched from an event after the drawing of boxes. Under the current provisions of GAR 76(2) and GAR 76(4), the standdown measures imposed commence on the date of the event. In the scenario whereby a greyhound is scratched in the days between the box draw and the event, a loophole exists whereby a greyhound may compete in an alternate event as the stand-down does not commence until the day of the original event. For example, scratch on Tuesday from a Friday race, but race on the Wednesday before penalty commencement (Friday). The draft amendments to GAR 76, seek to close out such a loophole by ensuring that the stand-down commences at the time of scratching and continues for the period outlined from the day of the event.

Further, GA seeks to amend GAR 42 which looks to capture any veterinary episode, described within GAR 42, that occurs on a racecourse. The proposed rule amendment, part (d) of GAR 42, provides clarity concerning the location and application of a sanction to a greyhound that suffers a prescribed veterinary episode including seizure or collapse.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you would like further, detailed, information about the proposed amendments, please email [derek.kordick@grsa.com.au](mailto:derek.kordick@grsa.com.au) for an information pack.

### **SUBMISSIONS**

If you would like make a submission on the proposed amendments, GRSA values your input. Please email [derek.kordick@grsa.com.au](mailto:derek.kordick@grsa.com.au) your submission.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024.