



Animal Welfare Policy

Greyhounds Queensland Limited

Albion Park Raceway
Breakfast Creek Qld 4010

PO Box 250
Albion Qld 4010

Phone: 07 3262 7800

Fax: 07 3262 7809

Website: www.greyhoundsqueensland.com.au

Email: gql@greyhoundsqueensland.com.au



DATE OF COMMENCEMENT

This policy takes effect 7th December 2005.

PURPOSE

The *Racing Act 2002* authorises Greyhounds Queensland Limited (GQL) to make policies for the sound management of the greyhound racing industry. Section 81 (s) of the Act requires GQL to make a policy for the welfare of licensed animals.

The purpose of the animal welfare policy is to ensure the welfare of licensed greyhounds is maintained while they are involved in:

- racing
- training
- activities associated with training or racing.

By maintaining the welfare of licensed greyhounds the interests of the public and the participants in greyhound racing activities are protected.

POLICY STATEMENT

GQL is committed to the welfare of licensed greyhounds. The maintenance of appropriate welfare standards for licensed greyhounds is critical to the viability of the greyhound racing industry.

The *Racing Act 2002* defines “welfare” of an animal to mean protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of the animal, including for example:

- drug control relating to animals;
- prevention and management of diseases that may affect animals.

GQL animal welfare policy has been developed in conjunction with the requirements of the *Racing Act 2002* and the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

The *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* imposes a duty on a person in charge of an animal, to ensure that the welfare of the animal is protected and maintained. It establishes a benchmark for the protection of animals, protection against cruelty and unreasonable abandonment or release of animals. Other legislation that impacts upon the standards developed for the protection of animal welfare include:



ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Qld) Act 1994;*
- *Biological Control Act 1987;*
- *Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981;*
- *Health Act 1937 and Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996;*
- *Therapeutic Goods act 1989 (Commonwealth) and subordinate legislation; and*
- *Stock Act 1915*

GQL is a member of Greyhounds Australasia – the national body for greyhound racing, which has affiliations with international bodies, and has a line of communication with the Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association.

GQL is committed to ensuring that appropriate standards of welfare for licensed greyhounds are maintained. GQL is also committed to ensuring that all licensed persons are aware of their obligations and that breaches of animal welfare standards may result in disciplinary action being taken, including cancellation of their licence

It is the policy of GQL that it will enter into an agreement with an accredited facility, independent of GQL, for the provision of services relating to the use of drugs in greyhound racing. In short an “accredited facility” is an entity, accredited under the *Racing Act 2002*, with appropriate personnel and procedures for analysis, including its security systems relating to analysing things relating to licensed animals.

GQL may make standards, procedures and rules with regard to the protection of animals as it views necessary to remain in step with the latest legal and scientific information.

GQL may make standards, procedures and rules regarding, but not limited to, matters such as:

- the husbandry and keeping of licensed greyhounds in rural and urban surroundings;
- transportations of licensed greyhounds;
- racing in extreme conditions;
- racecourse conditions;
- racecourse accommodation for licensed greyhounds;
- the use of drugs on licensed greyhounds:
- euthanasia of licensed greyhounds;
- emergency disease management plan;
- veterinary inspections.
- vaccinations.

GQL will seek to incorporate components on animal welfare into industry training and education programs.



ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

GQL will keep licence holders and other interested stakeholders informed on relevant animal welfare issues through the GQL Racing Calendar (Journal) and GQL website and other greyhound racing publications.

GQL will undertake regular audits of licensed greyhounds in the control of licence holders to assess whether the animals are being cared for according to established standards for animal welfare.

Prior to issuing licenses to persons involved in caring for licensed greyhounds, GQL may assess the person's knowledge of animal welfare policies and procedures. Properly authorised officers of GQL may immediately suspend a licence if the officer forms the belief during the conduct of an audit that the welfare of animals may be at risk.

Disciplinary action is to be taken against licence holders who fail to ensure that licensed animals are cared for in a manner that ensures that the welfare of the animal is maintained according to established standards.

Increasing focus on the protection of the welfare of licensed greyhounds is linked to other GQL policies, including education and training and licensing persons and racing venues.

DUTY OF CARE

All licence holders in charge of an animal owe that animal a duty of care and must not breach that duty of care. GQL requires all licence holders in charge of a licensed animal to act at all times in a way, which protects the welfare of the animal.

PROBITION OF CRUELTY

GQL will investigate allegations of cruelty and will institute disciplinary action against a person found to be treating any animal cruelly. Where serious breaches of animal welfare, towards racing or non-racing animals, are discovered or suspected, GQL will inform an:

- Integrity Officer appointed under the *Racing Act 2002*; and
- Animal Welfare Inspector appointed under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES

A person in charge of a licensed greyhound must immediately inform GQL, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries and an Integrity Officer appointed under the *Racing Act 2002*, if that person believes or suspects that the animal has become infected with a notifiable disease in accordance with the *Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981* and *Stock Act 1915 (Regulations 1988)*.



Example of a notifiable disease-

In all probability, currently, the only disease relevant to greyhounds would be rabies.

ADMINISTRATION OF CHEMICALS, DRUGS, POISONS AND OTHER TREATMENTS TO ANIMALS

Treatments must only be administered to licensed greyhounds by competent and qualified persons. Treatments must be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and GQL may take disciplinary action against persons who breach these requirements.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all persons:

- having care and control of a licensed greyhound; and
- involved in caring for a licensed greyhound.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- stewards;
- veterinarians;
- race club officials;
- trainers;
- attendants;
- breeders; and
- owners.

DEFINITIONS

This policy adopts the terminology used in the *Racing Act 2002*. Schedule 3 of the Act contains a dictionary of words used in the *Racing Act 2002* and may be accessed via the internet at www.legislation.qld.gov.au under the tab "R".

PROCEDURES

GQL has established procedures for activities that relate to the welfare of animals or licensed racing greyhounds.



GQL RULES OF GREYHOUND RACING

GQL rules of greyhound racing provide for the application of this policy. The rules that have been made and/or adopted for this policy include:

Greyhounds Australasia Rules – 37, 46, 56, 73, 74, 76, 79 -84, 106.

GQL (Qld) Rules – 27

ACCREDITED FACILITY

GQL has entered into an agreement with the Racing Science Centre, which is an accredited facility under the *Racing Act 2002* for the provision of services relating to drug control and animal welfare.

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This policy and each procedure that forms part of this policy will be reviewed after two years' operation.

This policy was reviewed by GQL Board on 3 March 2008, with the policy to be reviewed within two years of this date or earlier as determined by GQL Board.

This policy was reviewed by GQL Board on 26 November 2008, with the policy to be further reviewed within two (2) years of this date or earlier as determined by GQL Board.