



# Drug and Alcohol Policy

(Licence Holders and Race Club Officials)

**Greyhounds Queensland Limited**

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## COMMENCEMENT DATE

This policy comes into effect on 1 February 2004

## PURPOSE

Queensland's Greyhounds Queensland Limited (GQL) is authorised by law to make policy for the purpose of good management of the code of racing. The Racing Act 2002 requires that rules of racing be authorised by policies made under the Act.

Given the nature of activities associated with our industry, there are risks of injury to racing participants and to members of the public that can be minimised if all those involved in the code of racing carry out their responsibilities safely and efficiently. Use of alcohol and other drugs can significantly impair performance and increases the risk of injury. This is unacceptable for both occupational health and safety and for public liability reasons.

This Drug and Alcohol Policy sets out industry policy on the standards expected of licence holders and race club officials responsible for the control of registered animals at licensed venues. It also addresses the manner in which GQL will enforce these standards.

The desired outcome to be achieved is the safe and professional conduct of race meetings (and of related activities such as training), free of risk of injury to persons and animals occurring as a result of alcohol or drug impaired performance by those responsible for the control of registered animals. This includes licence holders such as trainers and attendants as well as race club officials with duties that involve the control of animals.

The specific objectives of this policy are to:

- establish standards in relation to alcohol and other drug use when carrying on a licenced activity or official duties
- explicitly authorise GQL stewards to act in circumstances where there is a reasonable belief that a person is affected by alcohol or other drugs in order to prevent that person from being in control of a registered animal at a licensed venue
- explicitly provide for race club officials with responsibilities that include the control of registered animals to be subject to the direction of GQL stewards if there is a reasonable belief that the official's performance is impaired or likely to be impaired by alcohol or other drugs



## POLICY STATEMENT

No licence holder may be in control of a registered animal if that person has taken a prohibited substance exceeding prescribed levels. Prohibited substances and levels refer to:

- an amount of alcohol resulting in intoxication and performance impairment
- illicit drugs at any levels
- prescription drugs at levels likely to impair individual performance, and
- any other substances listed as banned substances at levels specified in the rules of racing.

No race club official may perform duties that involve the control of registered animals if the official has taken a prohibited substance.

GQL considers that the misuse of drugs and alcohol poses serious risks to the safety of both industry participants and members of the general public and will not be condoned. Penalties imposed will reflect this stand, and may include suspension or disqualification of licence for proven offences.

If a steward has a reasonable belief, based on own observations or on medical advice or other relevant information, that a person has taken a prohibited substance and that the person's performance has been or may be impaired as a result, the steward will act immediately to prohibit that person access to a registered animal until satisfied that the person's performance is not impaired by the taking of a prohibited substance, including directing another person to handle the greyhound in the case of a licence holder, or in the case of an official, relieving that person of official duties at the event.

Decisions of stewards under this policy are subject to appeal through standard appeal processes.

## APPLICATION

This policy applies to the following categories of persons:

- attendants
- trainers (including owner/trainers and public trainers)
- owners authorised by the trainer to handle the registered animal at a licensed venue in circumstances where the trainer is not present
- any new categories of licence holder established under the Racing Act 2002 with equivalent responsibilities
- any other categories of licence holder established under the Racing Act 2002 with responsibilities for the control of registered animals at licenced venues
- race club officials whose responsibilities may require physical contact with an animal, for example, to assist a dog handler to control or position an animal official starters.



## DEFINITIONS

'Control of an animal' refers to a person's responsibility for physical control of a registered animal or animals at a licenced venue, regardless of whether that person has actual physical contact with the animal at the time. It therefore includes, for example, a handler responsible for retrieving a greyhound after a race, or a race club official whose duties may require physical contact with an animal to assist the handler to control or position an animal eg official starters.

'GQL steward', for the purpose of this policy, includes persons approved by Greyhounds Queensland Limited to act as a steward at a licensed venue.

'Prohibited substances', as used in this policy, refers to the presence of the following substances:

- an amount of alcohol resulting in intoxication and performance impairment
- an illicit drug, defined as any substance listed as a dangerous drug in the *Drugs Misuse Regulations 1987* unless prescribed by an authorised medical practitioner and therefore constituting a prescribed drug below
- prescribed drugs at levels likely to impair individual performance based on the advice of an authorised medical practitioner

## PROCEDURES

### ***Roles and responsibilities***

The General Manager GQL (or equivalent position) is responsible for:

- ensuring relevant GQL staff are appropriately trained in their responsibilities under this policy
- monitoring the implementation of this policy and bringing to the Chairman's attention issues relevant to its implementation and compliance
- promoting awareness among industry participants of their occupational health and safety obligations and public liability issues around drugs and alcohol in the workplace, and encouraging industry employers to introduce appropriate policies and practices to address drug and alcohol misuse among their employees

### **GQL stewards are responsible for:**

- acting immediately where there is a reasonable suspicion that the performance of a person responsible for the control of a registered animal is or may be impaired by drugs or alcohol, and preventing that person access to the animal if he/she has a reasonable belief that there is drug or alcohol-impaired performance



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- investigating and taking action on breaches of this policy and of associated rules of racing in accordance with the powers and responsibilities of GQL stewards

**The Chief Steward is responsible for:**

- ensuring all GQL stewards are made aware of their responsibilities under the policy and for monitoring the manner in which the policy is being enforced

***Review***

This policy will be reviewed after two years operation from its commencement date.

This policy was reviewed by the GQL Board on 31 January, 2007, 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 28 January 2009 with the policy to be reviewed within 2 years of this date or earlier as determined by GQL Board.

***Rules of racing***

Rules of racing provide for the application of this policy.

This policy was made by Greyhounds Queensland Limited on 21 January 2004 under s.81(q) of the *Racing Act 2002*.