

# **Racing Queensland Limited**

## **POLICY FOR A PROGRAM FOR THE TESTING AND TRAINING OF RACING ANIMALS, INCLUDING HOLDING TRIALS**

### **DATE POLICY WAS MADE**

This policy was made on 1 July 2010.

### **COMMENCEMENT DATE**

This policy comes into effect on 1 July 2010.

### **PURPOSE**

The *Racing Act 2002* (Act) authorises Racing Queensland Limited (Racing Queensland) to make policies for the sound management of the industry. Section 81(e) of the Act requires Racing Queensland to make a policy for providing or participating in an appropriate program for testing or training licensed animals, including holding trials. This policy does not cover testing racing animals for illicit substances. This matter is covered by a separate policy under section 81(s) of the Act.

Thoroughbred and harness racing horses and greyhound dogs require a program of education to prepare them for racing. Not only must their strength and fitness be developed, they must also be taught to load and unload from transport, behave at the races, be shod, be swabbed, enter the starting barriers unaided, behave in an acceptable manner during the score-up and start of a race and to run in a race. This is imperative for the safety of jockeys, drivers, stablehands, veterinarians, stewards and others, as well as the welfare of the racing animals.

Queensland racing industry participants have a duty of care for the racing animals under their control. They must ensure animals under their charge are treated humanely at all times and are not subjected to suffering. They must house, transport, handle and racing animals in a way to eliminate, or at the very least minimise, any stress on the animal.

Racing Queensland's role in the preparation or training of thoroughbred and harness racing horses and greyhound dogs is to provide information to persons involved about their duty of care in relation to the safety and welfare of racing animals and people.

The purpose of this policy is to help ensure that the routine for the training of thoroughbred and harness racing horses, and greyhound dogs adequately prepares them for competition.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

#### **Thoroughbred and Harness Racing**

Racing Queensland will provide opportunities for Queensland racing industry participants to use facilities which assist the preparation and training of horses to ensure all persons involved with training and testing horses know and understand their duty of care in relation to the safety and welfare of horses and people.

Under the Rules of Racing, the trainer of a horse must ensure that a horse running in a race is fit and properly conditioned to run and is fully responsible for the animals' welfare.

Thoroughbred horses must have adequate training to ensure they are competent to race and must have obtained a barrier certificate before competing in a race.

Harness racing horses must have adequate training to ensure they are competent to race and must have trialled to the required standard before first competing in a race.

The Rules of Racing provide that official trials, jump-outs and barrier tests shall be under the control of a steward or other official approved by Racing Queensland or the race club conducting the trial.

## **Greyhound Racing**

A club, common interest group and training track operator must ensure that:

- the training facility is maintained to provide a safe environment for the training of a greyhound;
- any greyhound accommodation is of an appropriate standard;
- any activity is not detrimental to the welfare of any animal;
- any activity is not detrimental to the welfare, image, and promotion of greyhound racing.

## **APPLICATION**

This policy applies to all sectors of the Queensland racing industry, including licensees, non-licensed industry participants and officers of Racing Queensland.

It will also apply to greyhound common interest groups and training track operators.

## **DEFINITIONS**

'Barrier certificate' means a certificate issued for a racehorse once it has completed a trial or jumpout to the satisfaction of Racing Queensland. A barrier certificate is required before a racehorse can start in a race.

'Common interest group' means a group of, usually licence holders, who through their combined efforts provide and maintain a training track facility.

'Jumpout' means an unofficial contest, contingency or event held under the control of Racing Queensland or a person appointed by Racing Queensland for testing or training licensed animals. Bets cannot be made on a jumpout.

'Private training track operator' means a person or entity that, on a commercial basis, provides and maintains a training track facility.

'Racing animals' means thoroughbred and harness racing horses and greyhound dogs.

'Testing' means measuring the performance of a licensed animal through a trial (as opposed to testing for a prohibited substance).

'Trial' means a contest, contingency or event held under the control of Racing Queensland for testing or training licensed animals. Bets cannot be made on a trial.

'Welfare' means in relation to animals or licensed animals, means protecting the health, safety and well-being of animals or licensed animals, including, for example:

- (a) drug control relating to animals or licensed animals
- (b) the prevention and management of diseases that may affect animals or licensed animals
- (c) stable health – cleanliness, and
- (d) suitable environment.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Roles and responsibilities**

#### **Thoroughbred and Harness Racing**

Racing Queensland's role in providing/participating in a program for preparing or training horses is to ensure all persons involved with training and testing horses know and understand their duty of care in relation to the safety and welfare of horses and people. Trainers of harness racing horses must ensure that a horse running in a trial or race is fit and properly conditioned to run.

#### **Greyhound Racing**

Racing Queensland will monitor:

- the activities of a club, common interest group and training track operator.
- the operation and use of facilities for the education and training of a greyhound.
- licence holders and authorised persons involved with the training of a greyhound to check that they understand their duty of care in relation to the safety and welfare of a greyhound.
- the activities of licence holders and other authorised persons involved in the training of greyhounds.

#### **Rules of Racing**

This policy is consistent with the rules of racing and the rules of harness racing that relate to barrier trials.

The rules of greyhound racing provide for the application of this policy.

#### **Review**

This policy was reviewed in September 2010.

Next review date will be September 2012.

#### **REVISION HISTORY**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.01	July 2010	Board adopted under exceptional circumstances
1.02	September 2010	Board confirmed subject to recommended amendments, this policy continues to have effect.