

Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board trading as Racing Queensland

ANIMAL WELFARE 'GREYHOUND TRAINING AND RACING' POLICY

DATE POLICY WAS MADE

This policy was made on 2 March 2015 (and updated 30 June 2015).

COMMENCEMENT DATE

This policy came into effect on 2 March 2015 (and updated 30 June 2015).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the principles and framework to be applied:

- To ensure that no greyhound or licensed participant participates or has participated in training practices that are harmful or cruel to animals; and
- To greyhounds in circumstances where a greyhound is reasonably suspected of having been involved in live baiting, or has been trained by a trainer found guilty of live baiting conduct offences.

POLICY STATEMENT

Racing Queensland is committed to the welfare of animals. This policy has been developed in conjunction with Racing Queensland's obligations under the Racing Act 2002 (**the Act**) as it relates to greyhounds, and more broadly 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 the benchmark for the protection of animals and against cruelty.

Live baiting and conduct amounting to animal cruelty is abhorrent and people involved in such practices are not regarded as being fit and proper persons to participate in this industry. In particular, Racing Queensland notes the application of Parts 3 (relating to prohibited events) and 5 (relating to the use of baits in relation to dogs) of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.

Prohibition of cruelty

Racing Queensland will not tolerate animal cruelty.

Amendments have been made to the Local Rules of Racing (Greyhound Racing) (**LR**) in terms consistent with this policy to implement the necessary legal framework and prohibitions, and to

ensure that the greyhound racing industry is compliant with obligations imposed by the Act and the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.

The LR provides that if a person is found to have used an animal improperly for any purpose connected with greyhound racing, then that greyhound shall be disqualified indefinitely and may have its registration cancelled.

For the purposes of this policy, 'improperly' includes, without limitation, acts which would constitute animal cruelty or allowing a greyhound to injure or kill another animal in furtherance of greyhound racing.

Additionally, if Racing Queensland reasonably suspects a person has used an animal improperly for any purpose connected with greyhound racing, before Racing Queensland will accept a nomination for that greyhound, it must successfully complete the Steward assessment process detailed below. For example, without limitation, if a greyhound was in the care of a trainer who has been disqualified or warned off in any way connected with live baiting or an animal cruelty offence, this would give rise to a reasonable suspicion that every other dog in his or her care has been subjected to the unacceptable practices.

Steward assessment

Racing Queensland has determined that any greyhound reasonably suspected of having been exposed to the practice of live baiting is prevented from participating in any Event until such time as the greyhound has undergone a Steward assessment to determine the suitability of the greyhound for racing. The Steward assessment will require a greyhound to complete a number of trials on conditions determined by the Stewards before being cleared to race. These conditions may include, without limitation, the monitoring and/or assessment of behaviour (including marring or fighting) under race or trial conditions.

Maintenance of racing probity

When nominating a greyhound for a qualifying trial or Event, trainers will be required to submit a statutory declaration in terms of Racing Queensland's prescribed form (or otherwise acceptable to Racing Queensland) in which the trainer declares, without limitation, that he or she:

1. has not taken part in any act of animal cruelty in relation to greyhound training in the past 10 years, including the practice known as live-baiting or blooding;
2. in the past 10 years has not instructed someone else (or given any express or implied approval to someone else) to take part in any act of animal cruelty in relation to greyhound training, including the practice known as live-baiting or blooding;
3. to the best of their knowledge, no greyhound while under their care or ownership has been involved in any act of animal cruelty in relation to greyhound training in the past 10 years, including the practice known as live-baiting or blooding.
4. in signing this declaration acknowledges that their understanding of Live Baiting or Blooding is that it is the practice of using a live animal in the training of greyhound racing

whereby that live animal has been subject to cruel activity. For example, a live animal is attached to the lure and a greyhound is encouraged to chase that lure (with or without a muzzle) or a live animal is attached to a lead or rope and greyhounds are encouraged to attack and kill that live animal.

If a Trainer fails to provide the statutory declaration without a reasonable excuse:

1. the trainer must not nominate, or attempt to nominate, the greyhound for any qualifying trial or Event; and
2. the greyhound may be declared disqualified from the qualifying trial or Event.

Assessment of industry participants' character and fitness

Training practices that are harmful or cruel to animals, or which involve live baiting of greyhounds, are actions inconsistent with an industry participant being of appropriate character and fitness to participate in the industry.

So that Racing Queensland may assess all industry participants' character and fitness to be licensed or registered, it is a requirement for the period commencing 1 July 2015 and thereafter continuing annually, that all persons applying to be licensed or registered or seeking to renew their licensing or registration, must submit to Racing Queensland a statutory declaration in terms of Racing Queensland's prescribed form (or otherwise acceptable to Racing Queensland) in which the person declares, without limitation, that he or she:

1. has not taken part in any act of animal cruelty in relation to greyhound training in the past 10 years, including the practice known as live-baiting or bleeding;
2. in the past 10 years has not instructed someone else (or given any express or implied approval to someone else) to take part in any act of animal cruelty in relation to greyhound training, including the practice known as live-baiting or bleeding;
3. to the best of their knowledge, no greyhound while under their care or ownership has been involved in any act of animal cruelty in relation to greyhound training in the past 10 years, including the practice known as live-baiting or bleeding.
4. in signing this declaration acknowledges that their understanding of Live Baiting or Bleeding is that it is the practice of using a live animal in the training of greyhound racing whereby that live animal has been subject to cruel activity. For example, a live animal is attached to the lure and a greyhound is encouraged to chase that lure (with or without a muzzle) or a live animal is attached to a lead or rope and greyhounds are encouraged to attack and kill that live animal.

Further, all trainers are required to give an undertaking as part of their licence application or renewal, that they will not be involved in any act of animal cruelty in the future, including the practices known as live baiting or bleeding.

The undertaking is designed to put trainers on notice that any future acts of this kind will not be tolerated by Racing Queensland. By renewing the undertaking on an annual basis, trainers will

be reminded of their ongoing responsibility to adhere to the wider community's standards of animal welfare in relation to training greyhounds for the purpose of greyhound racing.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all licensed and registered persons; and in respect of the assessment of industry participants' character and fitness provisions, those persons seeking to become licensed or registered.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Trainers;
- Attendants; and
- Owners.

DEFINITIONS

'Event' has the meaning given it in R1 of the GAR.

'GAR' means Greyhounds Australasia Rules.

'LR' means Local Rules of Racing (Greyhound Racing).

'Steward' has the meaning given it in R1 of the GAR.

PROCEDURES

Rules of Racing

The following rules of racing for greyhound racing have been made for this policy:

LR34A, LR50B and LR50C.

Review

It is intended that this policy will be reviewed in June 2016.

Revision History

Version	Date	Description
1.01	2 March 2015	Draft Policy – Board approval
2.01	30 June 2015	Policy – Licensing update – Board approval