

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Greyhound Retirement Readiness Scheme (the **Scheme**) is to support the efforts of racing industry participants to rehome greyhounds, support compliance with the mandatory desexing requirements under the [Greyhounds Australasia Rules](#), and optimise overall greyhound health in retirement by providing reimbursement towards the cost of desexing, dental treatment, vaccination and pre-anaesthetic blood tests for greyhounds that have been retired as pets.

2. SCOPE

This Scheme applies to all *Owners, Licensed Persons, Registered Persons* and *Eligible Greyhounds*.

From 1 May 2022, Greyhounds Australasia Rule 24 requires the mandatory sterilisation of greyhounds retired as pets unless a greyhound is being accepted by an adoption agency approved by a *Controlling Body* that undertakes sterilisation. In reference to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 24, the only adoption agency approved by a *Controlling Body* in Queensland is the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission's Greyhound Adoption Program.

All *Owners, Licensed Persons* and *Registered Persons* are required to comply with the Greyhounds Australasia Rules at all times. The notification of retirement of a greyhound must be submitted to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission by lodging the prescribed form, pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules. This Scheme does not affect the application or operation of the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.

3. DEFINITIONS

Applicant means the *Owner, Licensed Person* or *Registered Person* responsible for the care of an *Eligible Greyhound* that applies to Racing Queensland for reimbursement under the Scheme.

Breeding Female means a female *Eligible Greyhound* registered with a *Controlling Body* for breeding purposes.

Controlling Body means a relevant body or entity, provided for by legislation as having control of greyhound racing or an aspect of it in a state or territory of Australia or New Zealand. In Queensland, a reference to a *Controlling Body* is a reference to Racing Queensland or the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

Eligible Greyhound means a canine of the greyhound breed which:

- a) was registered pursuant to the Rules of a *Controlling Body*; and
- b) is retired and was domiciled in Queensland at the time of its retirement; and
- c) was under the care of a *Registered Person* at the time that the veterinary treatment and/or procedures incurring the *Specified Expenses* was performed; and
- d) the greyhound:
 - i. had started in an *Official Steward's Trial* or *Race Meeting* in Queensland within the twelve (12) months prior to the date of application to seek reimbursement under the Scheme; or
 - ii. had not started in an *Official Steward's Trial* or *Race Meeting* in Queensland but was domiciled in Queensland with a *Registered Person* for a minimum of three (3) consecutive months prior to the retirement of the greyhound; or
 - iii. was registered as a *sire* or *breeding female* in Queensland and was domiciled in Queensland with a *Registered Person* for a minimum of three (3) consecutive months prior to the retirement of the greyhound from breeding purposes.

Licensed Person means a person licensed or registered by a *Controlling Body*, and means the same as *registered person*.

Official Steward's Trial means an official trial:

- a) that is conducted by a *Steward*; and
- b) that is held on the same day as a *Race Meeting*; and
- c) in which each *Eligible Greyhound* is checked by an on-course veterinarian prior to trialling.

Owner means any person who has a legal or equitable interest in an *Eligible Greyhound*, including a lessee with an interest recorded with a *Controlling Body*.

Race Meeting means a meeting for conducting racing of licensed animals (as those terms are defined in the [Racing Act 2002](#) (Qld)).

Racing Queensland (RQ) means the Racing Queensland Board.

Registered Person means a person registered or licensed by a *Controlling Body*, and means the same as "*licensed person*". A *registered person* may be issued with a licence.

Sire refers to a male *Eligible Greyhound* which is registered with a *Controlling Body* for breeding purposes.

Specified Expenses means expenses for desexing, dental prophylaxis and treatment (including extractions), vaccination and pre-anaesthesia blood tests (as those terms are defined in section **4.2 Scheme Reimbursement**)

Steward means a person appointed or approved by a *Controlling Body* (or federal, state or territory government or government body) to carry out functions or duties in relation to greyhound racing. It includes a Chief Steward, Deputy Chief Steward, Senior Steward, Steward and Cadet Steward.

4. SCHEME DETAIL

4.1. Greyhound Retirement Readiness Scheme

The Scheme applies where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The *Eligible Greyhound* has been retired as a pet and a notification of retirement has been submitted to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules, within the twelve (12) months prior to the date of application to seek reimbursement under the Scheme.
- (b) The *Eligible Greyhound* was under the care of a *Registered Person* at the time that the veterinary treatment and/or procedures incurring the *Specified Expenses* was performed.
- (c) Desexing and dental prophylaxis (+/- dental treatment) of the *Eligible Greyhound* must be performed prior to applying for reimbursement under the Scheme unless:
 - i. the veterinarian certifies that the *Eligible Greyhound's* teeth do not require dental prophylaxis or dental treatment (including extractions) at the time of veterinary examination (meaning neither gingivitis nor periodontitis is present); or
 - ii. the veterinarian certifies that performing dental prophylaxis (+/- dental treatment) under general anaesthesia would be detrimental to the *Eligible Greyhound's* health; or
 - iii. the *Eligible Greyhound* has previously been desexed and only requires dental prophylaxis (+/- dental treatment).
- (d) Reimbursement under the Scheme is for both desexing and dental prophylaxis/treatment, however dental-only applications will be accepted for *Eligible Greyhounds* that have already been desexed, provided that RQ is provided with evidence of prior desexing (e.g. a desexing certificate is supplied with the application form).
- (e) Reimbursement for desexing of a female *Eligible Greyhound* is not covered under the Scheme if the desexing is performed at the same time as a caesarean. For male *Eligible Greyhounds*, desexing means the removal of both testicles, or if one testicle has already been removed, the removal of the remaining testicle.
- (f) The *Eligible Greyhound* undergoing desexing and dental prophylaxis/treatment is also eligible for reimbursement for a vaccination (C5 or C7) and pre-anaesthesia blood tests (if applicable).
- (g) Veterinary services must be provided by a veterinarian registered with the veterinary registration body in the state where the services are provided.
- (h) Veterinary treatment and/or procedures incurring the *Specified Expenses*, may be performed on an *Eligible Greyhound* at different times.

- (i) Only one application will be accepted in the lifetime of an *Eligible Greyhound*. *Specified Expenses* will be reimbursed, up to the stated maximums, on one occasion only in the lifetime of an *Eligible Greyhound*.
- (j) The *Applicant* must provide evidence of having paid, in full, the amount invoiced by the treating veterinarian or veterinary practice for the *Specified Expenses*.
- (k) The invoice described at (j) must be in the name of the *Applicant*.

4.2. Scheme Reimbursement

Where the Scheme applies, RQ will reimburse the *Applicant*:

- (a) Desexing costs (including veterinary consultation) up to a maximum of \$300.00 (incl. GST) for male *Eligible Greyhounds* or \$400.00 (incl. GST) for female *Eligible Greyhounds*; and
- (b) Dental prophylaxis and treatment costs (combined) up to a maximum of \$200.00 (incl. GST); and
- (c) Vaccination costs (C5 or C7) up to a maximum of \$100.00 (incl. GST); and
- (d) Pre-anaesthesia blood tests for senior *Eligible Greyhounds* (7 years of age or older only) up to a maximum of \$100.00 (incl. GST).

Other procedures that may be undertaken under general anaesthesia, such as nail clipping, are not covered under the Scheme.

The maximum total amount of reimbursement available under the Scheme for any individual *Eligible Greyhound* under seven (7) years of age is \$600.00 (incl. GST) for male *Eligible Greyhounds* and \$700.00 (incl. GST) for female *Eligible Greyhounds*.

The total amount of reimbursement available under the Scheme for any individual *Eligible Greyhound* seven (7) years of age or older is \$700.00 (incl. GST) for male *Eligible Greyhounds* and \$800.00 (incl. GST) for female *Eligible Greyhounds*.

The Scheme offers a capped amount of reimbursement for the cost of desexing, dental prophylaxis/treatment, vaccination and pre-anaesthetic blood tests for *Eligible Greyhounds*. While it is anticipated that the reimbursement will cover the cost of the veterinary treatment in many circumstances, the actual cost of and payment for any treatment or procedure, including *Specified Expenses*, remains a matter between the *Applicant* and the veterinarian providing those services.

The *Applicant* is responsible for any and all costs incurred in relation to the veterinary treatment of or procedure performed on an *Eligible Greyhound*, including any costs associated with subsequent treatments or procedures, whether or not arising as a result of the initial treatments or procedures.

4.3. Application Process

- (a) *Applicants* can apply to RQ for reimbursement under the Scheme by:
 - i. completing the Greyhound Retirement Readiness Scheme Application Form; and
 - ii. providing all supporting documentation (that clearly identifies the *Eligible Greyhound*) required by RQ including:
 - A. Desexing Certificate; and
 - B. Vaccination Certificate (if applicable); and
 - C. Clinical notes from the veterinarian detailing all treatment and procedures performed; and
 - D. Itemised tax invoice (in the name of the *Applicant*) and receipt of payment for the *Specified Expenses* incurred.
- (b) Applications to seek reimbursement under the Scheme must be submitted to RQ by email or post at:
 - Email address:** grrs@racingqueensland.com.au
 - Postal address:** Attention: Greyhound Department
Racing Queensland Board (trading as Racing Queensland)
PO Box 63
Sandgate QLD 4017
- (c) Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

4.4. Consideration of Application

- (a) Where RQ is satisfied that:
- i. the veterinary treatment of the *Eligible Greyhound* is eligible to be funded under the Scheme in accordance with section 4.1 and 4.2; and
 - ii. the *Applicant* has complied with the application process set out in section 4.3,
- RQ will make a single, lump sum payment to the *Applicant* within fourteen (14) business days, via electronic funds transfer (EFT) to the registered bank account of the *Applicant* (as per RQ records).
- (b) Where RQ is not satisfied of either or both matters in sections 4.4(a)i or 4.4(a)ii, RQ will notify the *Applicant* that they are not eligible to receive reimbursement under the Scheme.
- (c) All decisions by RQ regarding applications under this Greyhound Retirement Readiness Scheme are final and binding on the *Applicant*.

5. APPLICATION OF THIS SCHEME

RQ may review, amend or discontinue this Scheme from time to time. We will notify you of any changes by posting an updated version of this Scheme or a notice on the Racing Queensland website (<http://www.racingqueensland.com.au/>).

6. VERSION HISTORY

Current Version:	2022.08	Date Made:	2 AUGUST 2022	Effective Date:	2 AUGUST 2022
Scheme Owner:	EGM Operations			Owner Approved:	2 AUGUST 2022
Enquiries to:	grrs@racingqueensland.com.au			Review due by:	1 MAY 2023

VERSION	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	CHANGES MADE
2022.05	1 MAY 2022	Operations	New scheme created.
2022.06	10 JUNE 2022	Operations	Revised definition of Eligible Greyhound.
2022.08	2 AUGUST 2022	Operations	Revised sections 1 and 4.1(g).