

CONSULTATION NOTICE - RULES OF RACING

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| Code of Racing | Greyhound |
| Rule | Proposed new Local Rules of Racing 11A, 11B, 11C |
| Description | Rehoming of a greyhound Euthanasia of a greyhound Abandonment of a greyhound |
| Authorised for Consultation | March 4, 2024 |
| Consultation Closes | April 12, 2024 |
| Submissions to | policies@racingqueensland.com.au |

Racing Queensland (**RQ**), in conjunction with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (**QRIC**), is considering adopting a suite of proposed new greyhound Local Rules of Racing (the **Proposed Rules**), relating to rehoming, euthanasia and abandonment of greyhounds.

RQ and QRIC view the elimination of unnecessary euthanasia of healthy greyhounds as a key welfare priority for the greyhound racing industry, and the Proposed Rules are the result of detailed consideration of many elements over an extended period of time.

The Proposed Rules:

- bring Queensland in line with all other Australian greyhound racing jurisdictions (with the exception of the Northern Territory) with respect to having provisions that set out a responsibility to rehome, and limitations on euthanasia;
- clarify the responsibilities of owners, and persons responsible for greyhounds, in relation to the rehoming of greyhounds that are domiciled in Queensland and retired from, or otherwise unsuitable for, racing or breeding;
- make clear the limited circumstances under which the euthanasia of greyhounds is permitted in the Queensland greyhound racing industry; and
- create provisions that enable a controlling body to deem a greyhound to have been abandoned by its owner in particular circumstances (similar to an existing rule in New South Wales).

RQ and the QRIC believe that, wherever possible, suitable healthy greyhounds leaving the industry should have the opportunity to live out their natural lives as companion animals. Under the Proposed Rules, euthanasia of a greyhound will only be permitted under the following limited circumstances:

- on veterinary grounds, where the veterinarian has determined that the greyhound has an intractable condition that is likely to result in a poor ongoing quality of life and that euthanasia is the most appropriate course of action; or
- where the greyhound is a declared dangerous or menacing dog by a relevant local government authority; or
- if the greyhound has attacked or bitten a person causing significant injury requiring treatment by a medical practitioner; or
- to comply with law.

The Proposed Rules are detailed in full in the following pages.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the Proposed Rules as per the details at the top of this document.



PROPOSED NEW LOCAL RULES OF RACING - GREYHOUND

LR11A Rehoming of a greyhound

- (1) This Local Rule applies in addition to the provisions of GAR 22 and GAR 24.
- (2) Where a greyhound will no longer be utilised for racing or breeding, or has not been and will not be utilised for racing or breeding, and is not to be retained by an owner as a pet, the owner (or, in the case of a syndicate, the managing owner) must rehome the greyhound, or cause the greyhound to be rehomed, to an appropriate home, except where LR11B applies.
- (3) Rehoming in accordance with this Local Rule means rehoming to an appropriate third party as a pet, or acceptance into the *Controlling Body's* Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP), or another rehoming agency approved by the *Controlling Body*.
- (4) Where, in the opinion of the Stewards, a greyhound has not been appropriately rehomed (including in circumstances where a third party is considered to be operating as a rehoming agency, and that rehoming agency is not approved by the *Controlling Body*), the Stewards may impose any such conditions in relation to future rehoming on an owner, or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time, as they think fit.

LR11B Euthanasia of a greyhound

- (1) This Local Rule applies in addition to the provisions of GAR 22.
- (2) An owner or person responsible for a greyhound at the relevant time, must not permit the euthanasia of a greyhound unless:
 - (a) a veterinarian has determined that the greyhound has an intractable condition, such that the greyhound's ongoing quality of life is likely to be poor and the veterinarian considers euthanasia to be the most appropriate course of action; or
 - (b) the greyhound is a declared dangerous or menacing dog by a relevant local government authority; or
 - (c) the greyhound has attacked or bitten a person causing significant injury requiring treatment by a medical practitioner; or
 - (d) the greyhound is required to be euthanised to comply with law (for example, a council destruction order or court order).
- (3) An owner or person responsible for a greyhound at the relevant time, who permits the euthanasia of a greyhound in accordance with this Local Rule must:
 - (a) ensure that the euthanasia procedure is performed by a registered veterinarian; and
 - (b) when lodging the relevant documentation following the euthanasia of the greyhound pursuant to GAR 22 (which must include the veterinary certificate of euthanasia), also submit evidence to establish:
 - (i) veterinary certification as to the relevant medical grounds pursuant to subrule (2)(a) of this Local Rule; or
 - (ii) that the greyhound was a declared dangerous or menacing dog; or
 - (iii) that treatment by a medical practitioner was required following an attack or bite upon a person, which must include a statement from the treating medical practitioner detailing the nature and extent of the injury and the treatment required; or
 - (iv) that the euthanasia was required to comply with law, whichever is applicable.
- (4) A person who breaches this Local Rule is guilty of an offence.

LR11C Abandonment of a greyhound

- (1) The owner of a greyhound must not abandon a greyhound.
- (2) The *Controlling Body* may deem a greyhound to be abandoned in the following circumstances:
 - (a) the greyhound is registered, and
 - (b) the greyhound is in the custody of a registered participant or other person who is not the owner of the greyhound, and
 - (c) the registered participant, or other person who has custody of the greyhound, has requested the owner to resume custody of the greyhound or otherwise provide for the care of the greyhound, and
 - (d) the owner has failed to do so, and
 - (e) the *Controlling Body* has notified the owner of its intention to deem the greyhound to be abandoned if the owner does not resume custody of the greyhound within 14 days of the date of the notice, and
 - (f) the owner has failed to comply with the notice.
- (3) A greyhound deemed to be abandoned pursuant to LR11C(2) is to be retired and transferred to the Greyhound Adoption Program or other person or organisation as directed by the *Controlling Body*.