

Dear NSW Veterinary Practitioner,

Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) was established under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2009* (NSW) and is the peak body for greyhound racing in NSW. GRNSW is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership in the development, integrity and welfare of greyhound racing in the state. As you may be aware, serious animal welfare challenges confront the greyhound racing industry and since February 2015 GRNSW has undergone significant reform. GRNSW is engaging with systemic welfare, integrity and governance issues and is committed to upholding animal welfare standards.

As part of this reform, GRNSW seeks your cooperation in the following matters:

### **VETERINARY CERTIFICATES OF EUTHANASIA FOR RACING INDUSTRY GREYHOUNDS**

Rule 106(4) of the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules requires registered greyhound racing industry participants to provide a veterinary certificate of euthanasia when notifying GRNSW of their greyhound's euthanasia.

The certificate is required to contain:

- the identity of the greyhound including microchip number and ear brand
- the identity of the person responsible for the greyhound
- the address of the person responsible for the greyhound
- the date of euthanasia
- the name of the attending veterinarian
- the signature of the attending veterinarian

There is also a preference for a certificate containing the letterhead of the relevant veterinary practice.

Although it is the responsibility of the registered participant to provide this certification to GRNSW, your co-operation with providing these details to the owner or trainer of any greyhound you euthanase would be appreciated and would assist with ensuring that greyhound racing industry participants uphold animal welfare standards.

### **DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE POLICY**

GRNSW has recently initiated a Disease Surveillance and Response Policy, requiring participants to report certain diseases or signs of disease in their greyhounds. The aim of the initiative is to systematically record and review disease occurrence in the racing greyhound population of NSW, so that action may be taken to minimise outbreaks.

Although the responsibility to report lies with the registered participant, GRNSW welcomes the assistance of NSW veterinary practitioners in achieving that aim. Please contact GRNSW if you encounter any of the following in a greyhound patient:

- sudden or unexpected death
- neurological symptoms
- significant gastrointestinal symptoms
- respiratory symptoms
- non-specific symptoms affecting multiple dogs in a kennel

Over recent weeks, GRNSW has recorded approximately eighteen cases of greyhound illness without an established aetiology. Symptoms have varied from nonspecific malaise to sudden death, with gastrointestinal and neurological abnormalities also observed, and multiple dogs in a kennel usually affected. In several cases a common pet meat source has existed but despite testing of the meat in two cases a toxic or infectious cause has not been confirmed.

Pathology thus far has been non-diagnostic. Should any further cases arise, GRNSW will be particularly interested in post-mortem tissue and meat sampling, and may be able to offer assistance in this area.

All identities will be treated with sensitivity.

### **INJURY REPORTING IN RACING GREYHOUNDS**

GRNSW recognises a need for accurate and complete data collection with regards to on-track injuries in racing greyhounds.

In circumstances where an injury has occurred on a trial track, or not become apparent until the day after a race, GRNSW is reliant on voluntary reporting from industry participants.

A voluntary injury reporting survey will be posted on the GRNSW website within the next few weeks, to simplify the process for participants.

NSW veterinarians can lend much-appreciated support to this endeavour by encouraging participants to report any track injuries that may be seen in practice.

All information volunteered will remain anonymous.

### **VETERINARY EXAMINATION FOR APPLICATION TO BREED A FEMALE GREYHOUND**

According to GRNSW (and national) policy, a female greyhound that has reached eight years of age, or already produced three litters, is not allowed to be used for further breeding unless granted approval.

In order to seek approval from GRNSW, applicants must provide a veterinary certificate demonstrating that the female is in a fit and healthy state for breeding.

A template is now available on the GRNSW website for bitches requiring this veterinary examination.

*To access any forms mentioned above, visit the GRNSW website [www.thedogs.com.au](http://www.thedogs.com.au).*

*For disease reporting or any other enquiries related to the information above, please contact Disease Surveillance Manager Dr Anne-Louise Knox on (02) 8767 0500 or email [vets@grnsw.com.au](mailto:vets@grnsw.com.au).*

*If you have any welfare concerns about a particular greyhound or industry participant, or suspicions of animal cruelty or neglect, please contact GRNSW's Welfare and Integrity Hotline on 1800 680 174 or email [intelligence@grnsw.com.au](mailto:intelligence@grnsw.com.au).*

Kind regards,

Greyhound Racing NSW