



Victoria Government Gazette

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Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF DECISION

Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds

I, Jaala Pulford, Minister for Agriculture, and Minister responsible for administering the **Domestic Animals Act 1994**, give notice under section 12J of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994** (SLA) that the proposed Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds (the Code) has been the subject of a Regulatory Impact Statement in accordance with section 12H of the SLA. Public comments and submissions were invited and 1308 individual submissions were received.

After consideration of these submissions in accordance with section 12I of the SLA, I have further considered the Code and decided it be made with the following amendments:

- a commencement date of 1 January 2020, allowing time for thorough implementation planning;
- facility and fencing requirements have been simplified to remove specific fence sizing, other than fence height. The Code provides that existing participants can bring facilities and fences in their establishment up to Code requirements upon replacement of facilities, unless a welfare or safety issue is identified;
- a consolidated Establishment and Health Management Plan combines existing requirements and outlines protocols for the overall management of any establishment keeping racing greyhounds, including greyhound welfare and establishment administration;
- the distinction between hobby and professional establishments has been removed, as minimum welfare standards set out in the Code apply equally to all persons who keep racing greyhounds;
- training for existing greyhound industry participants is recommend rather than mandated, as this recognises existing experience gained through participation in the industry;
- the required staff ratio has been simplified to remove greyhound equivalents and acknowledge the critical socialisation period for puppies (from three to 16 weeks of age);
- the roles and responsibilities of staff within a greyhound establishment have been simplified. The Code includes a role for the Person in Charge and Veterinary Practitioner to ensure accountability for the welfare of greyhounds is very clear;
- the definition of **heritable defects** has been amended to refer specifically to those outlined in the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986**;
- a definition of **emergency euthanasia** has been included, as have other definitions consequential to amendments made;
- appropriate exercise, socialisation and enrichment requirements for all racing greyhounds have been clarified, with an emphasis on the critical socialisation period, to better prepare greyhounds to transition to life as a pet following their racing career;
- to address concerns raised in submissions, records of greyhounds will now be required to be kept from birth (rather than 12 weeks as originally proposed) to ensure traceability of greyhounds and their health history;
- other minor formatting and typographical changes.

HON. JAALA PULFORD MP
Minister for Agriculture

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