



NSW GREYHOUND ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

DETAILED GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

(A1) – CANINE HEALTH AND FIRST AID GUIDELINES (November 2006)

1 WARNING

The information contained in these Guidelines is intended for information purposes only. The Guidelines are intended only to assist persons licensed by the Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority (GHRRA) involved in the training and care of greyhounds to attain basic skills in recognizing some of the most common signs of sickness, injury, pain, distress and suffering in greyhounds and thereby encourage such persons to seek prompt, appropriate expert treatment for a greyhound displaying those signs from a veterinary surgeon.

The Guidelines are only provided to persons licensed by the G&HRRA. The Guidelines are not intended for general publication and the G&HRRA makes no representations or warranties as to the accuracy of any matter contained in the Guidelines to persons licensed by the G&HRRA or to any other person.

The Guidelines are relied upon entirely at the discretion and risk of the person using them.

The G&HRRA accepts no responsibility or liability arising from or in connection with the use of the Guidelines by any person for any direct or indirect loss, damage, claim or injury howsoever arising and any person who uses the information does so on this understanding.

The Guidelines are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all illnesses which may affect a greyhound. The Guidelines are not to be read as specific veterinary instructions in any particular case to be applied without seeking expert advice. You should always promptly seek advice from a veterinary surgeon that actually sees the animal to ensure that it receives proper care/treatment.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility and welfare for a greyhound under a person's care is policed by government legislation and local government regulations as well as the G&HRRRA Rules. That person who has the care, control or custody of an animal, must provide that animal with adequate food, shelter, exercise as well as proper veterinary attention at all times. A basic understanding and application of first-aid skills and knowledge does not entitle you to ignore the legal responsibility to refer the animal to a veterinary professional to provide ongoing treatment for what may be life threatening situations and complex injuries or sickness as well as to properly relieve pain.

3 VETERINARY ASSISTANCE

It is vital when involved with the racing greyhound that you have detailed in a safe yet visible place, the contact details of veterinary facility that will care for your greyhound in an emergency or routine.

Ensure details of the Veterinary Hospital you will use are known, its name, address and phone numbers including after hours numbers, hours of operation and know how to drive there quickly and safely in a panic type emergency. Have also an alternate practice similarly listed.

By making early contact with your vet and having your animals under his/her care, the vet will be able to provide further first aid advice as well as possibly a limited group of prescription drugs and ointments for your first-aid use under that vet's directions. Also vets are a good source for obtaining appropriate bandages and dressing supplies.

4 BASIC FIRST AID EQUIPMENT

The following are useful items to keep in a known place or suitable container:

Thermometer. 2 (they are easily broken) Normal temperature is 38.0 - 38.8⁰C, higher after exercise or in illness.

Dressings and Bandages: Gauze swabs, iodine swabs, cotton wool rolls, Elastoplast 3" and 1", Vetwrap® type self adherent, normal conforming bandage, paraffin gauze, gauze swabs sterilized (vets a good source)

Instruments: Scissors curved and straight and bandage scissors, forceps (tweezers, artery forceps)

Drugs: Antibiotic powder and creams, medical diarrhea mixture, antiseptic solution for cleaning skin and wounds such as 'Hibitane', emetics for vomiting (ipecac syrup or 1 teaspoonful of salt in ½ cup water), 'Lectade' electrolyte drinking supplement,

Equipment: Gloves, muzzles, leads, water and treatment s/s bowls, towels, blankets

5 RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR FIRST AID

Knowledge of first-aid includes the skill and ability to assess and recognize the signs of illness, distress, pain and injury in the greyhound. The objectives of first aid therefore are:

- * To preserve life and animal welfare
- * To prevent and alleviate pain and suffering
- * To prevent situations getting worse
- * To promote and assist recovery and wellness
- * To recognize the need for and obtain professional veterinary help

Common sense, history and familiarity with the greyhound on a day by day basis in its normal state should enable you to recognize changes that indicate something is wrong or abnormal.

5.1 Visible signs, indicating possible trouble, may include shock, limping, lethargy, reduced activity, vomiting or diarrhoea, haemorrhage, not eating, weight loss, off food, pain when handled, poor capillary refill time, consciousness state

5.2 Shock. Is a state where the body shuts down some of its non-essential functions by diverting blood from non-essential areas such as skin, muscle and intestines, to the heart lungs and brain to sustain life.

This is a most serious sign indicated by rapid weak pulse, pale mucous membranes, cold extremities, drop in normal temperature, weakness and often inability to move are the most obvious signs and are usually associated with an obvious event such as physical injury or severe illness.

As well as first aid, professional treatment will be needed.

- 5.3 Capillary refill time** is a useful indicator and will be much slower in shock. Press firmly on the pink mucous membrane of the gums then release. Normally that area should return to the same pink as the surrounding area in less than 3 seconds.
- 5.4 Clinical signs** are measurable signs that relate to changes in normal body functions. Temperature increases and decreases, respiration rate and sound changes, heart rate, pale mucous membranes, blood pressure assessed by feeling pulse.
- 5.5 Temperature** (Normal range 38 - 38.8⁰C) is taken by inserting the thermometer into the rectum for 60 seconds. Remember to shake the mercury down below 35 on the thermometer before using.

A rise above 39⁰C in a resting animal may indicate a serious problem. A decline in temperature of at least 1⁰C in a heavily pregnant bitch indicates birth within the next 24 hours, in a non-pregnant animal may indicate shock.

- 5.6 Respiration** (Normal rate 20 - 40) is assessed by counting the number of expirations (out breaths) over 15 secs times 4. Ensure this is not affected by the animal being environmentally excited or overheated. Listen for abnormal sounds, notice the strength of breathing effort.
- 5.7 Pulse** (Normal rate 60 - 120) can be taken using a finger pressure over any major artery, such as in the groin, counting the pulses (caused by heart contractions) over 15 seconds x 4 and assessing whether strong or weak. Excitement or fear can cause a normal increase.

6 CRITICAL PROBLEMS NEEDING AND FIRST AID

- 6.1 Shock** - Capillary refill time slow, pale gums, rapid heart rate and respiration, feeble pulse, greyhound collapsed, neck skin 'tents' when picked up, history of causative event.

History:

One or more of these events known to have occurred, blood loss, trauma or accident, allergic reaction, heart, sickness, infection, racing overexertion.

First aid:

Stop haemorrhage if present, do not apply direct heat, alcohol or use drugs for first aid but prevent heat loss by covering animal, keep quiet and handle gently, give fluids by mouth (little and often) if animal will accept.

Ongoing:

Shock signs indicate a severe condition requiring urgent assistance. Take to vet immediately who will commence essential and appropriate intravenous fluid replacement as well as drugs to deal with the causing effect.

6.2 Haemorrhage - loss of blood rapidly or over time, internally or externally.

History:

Usually apparent wounds or trauma but rat poisons can also cause bleeding.

- Arterial bleeding – bright red, pumping forcefully as spurts, comes from wound side nearest heart, definite point of issue.
- Venous bleeding – darker red blood, no spurting, from side furthest from heart, definite point of issue.
- Capillary bleeding – bright red blood, small volume oozes from all damaged area, no bleeding point
- Abdominal bleeding – no blood generally visible, shock signs present with extreme pallor, history of trauma.

Controlling Haemorrhage:

Direct finger pressure over the bleeding point where visible. Clean hands, fingers applied to skin either side of the wound bleeder and wound pinched together. Quick effective short term measure, follow with padding.

Pad and pressure bandage

Ensure no foreign bodies are present (e.g. glass) that may be forced deeper. A pad of gauze swabs or cotton wool wrapped in gauze is applied to the wound and bandaged firmly in place. High leg wounds require the whole leg to be bandaged to stop lower leg swelling. If bleeding seeps through, do not remove the original bandage else any forming clot will be disturbed, but apply more layers. Over bandage with elastic Vetwrap” or similar.

Forceps can be used to grab the bleeding vessel. Requires skill, can damage associated nerves, effective if able but if not successful in 3 or 4 goes, use other methods.

Tourniquet should only be used where other methods are unsuccessful or for short term control whilst pressure wrapping the injury. Tourniquets prevent ALL blood flow past them, prolonged application over 15 minutes, will cause death of all this tissue.

Apply tourniquet, tightening slowly until bleeding slows or stops, identify the bleed point, clamp the vessel, apply padded support then release. Never bandage over a tourniquet.

Use flat elastic bandage, flat rubber band, elastic tubing or a belt for tourniquet.

Internal Bleeding When suspected via extreme shock signs and pallor, rush to vet for possible surgery. Ruptured spleen, kidney haemorrhage can occur without external signs

- 6.3 Wounds** - Any injury causing breaks in the skin and soft tissue, caused by traumatic incidents is a wound. Wounds will become infected if not handled properly or where contaminated by dirt or debris when inflicted.

History:

Can be open wounds due to incision or cutting by a sharp object such as tin, accompanied with severe bleeding, lacerated wounds with more extensive damage resulting in slower healing, puncture wounds often resulting from fighting where deeper but inapparent damage may be present, abrasion wounds with contamination by ground debris or combinations of any of these. All wounds are susceptible to infection.

First Aid Treatment:

Treat for Shock if present, control bleeding, remove the source of the injury, remove any hair that may cause contamination to the wound, clean the wound by flushing with saline or antiseptic, apply a clean dressing over the area where possible, ensure the greyhound cannot interfere with the wound using a muzzle if necessary, kennel in a quiet place, administer antibiotics if so advised.

Change dressings every 2 days or more often with antiseptic flushing, take temperature every day to detect if infection is occurring. Antibiotics may be required to prevent infection. Always consult your veterinarian as soon as possible if there is apparent muscle or tendon damage.

Suturing wounds:

This is best left to a veterinarian using appropriate methods and materials. Suturing together wound edges, together with administering antibiotics will enable more rapid and stronger healing and is the desirable course in most types of wounds. Suturing any contaminated wounds closed may promote ongoing infection, failure to accurately oppose the edges of the wound may cause breakdown, materials used at home may cause hostile wound reaction or infection.

6.4 FRACTURES - are a break in a bone and can vary from chipped bones to multiple fragments.

- Simple fractures are where there is a clean break with minimum damage.
- Complicated fractures are where tissues around the site are damaged also.
- Multiple fractures are where several breaks exist within the bone.
- Compound fractures are where the skin surface is broken and an infection pathway is established. Compound fractures must receive antibiotics to prevent osteomyelitis of the bone.

History:

Usually a history of trauma or after race lameness. Pain at the site together with swelling, loss of use, deformity all constitute a possible fracture.

First Aid Treatment:

Fractures cause great pain so the risk of the greyhound biting is high. Muzzle the animal and take care yourself against being bitten. Lie the animal down for best approach. Ideally try to immobilise the (suspected) fracture to make the animal more comfortable and limit further pain and damage from bone end movement.

Apply copious amounts of cotton wool firmly wrapped around the area to provide stiffness with comfort, overbandage with elastoplast or “Vetwrap”, additional support can be provided by outside splinting - bend a wire coat hanger to shape or use wooden dowel- bandage this in place. Ensure toes are included in bandaging.

Ongoing:

Seek prompt veterinary help where the suspected fracture can be X-Rayed for conformation and appropriate treatment.

- 6.5 HEAT STROKE** – is a very life threatening problem and is the overheating of the core temperature of the animal. Temperatures in excess of 39.8⁰C up to 41⁰ C can occur and over this permanent brain damage or death will result.. Signs include excessive panting, feels hot, distressed breathing, disorientation, collapse.

History:

As well as such obvious situations as being confined in a hot car or trailer, or lack of water, greyhounds may succumb to overheating through excessive race exertion causing a condition known as “acidosis” or “rhabdomyolysis”.

First Aid Treatment:

Remove from the heat source, lower the body temperature urgently by wetting all over with cold running water (even iced if available). If running water is not available, then sponging or bucketing over the animal. Scrape off that layer of still water against the skin and reapply repeatedly otherwise the still water in contact with the skin will remain hot and inhibit the cooling process. Dunk in cold bath or pool, use fanning or electric fans, give alcohol baths (metho) as the alcohol evaporation draws heat from body, apply ice to areas of large veins such as in the neck. Monitor temperature constantly and cease cooling when it comes into the normal range. After running, greyhounds should be cooled down with running water over their body particularly in warmer months. It may not be enough just to wet them down before kenneling again for the reasons given above.

Ongoing:

Since severe heat stroke can be potentially fatal, do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian after applying first aid, the sooner treatment is sought the better the result. Problems such as brain damage, kidney failure, intestinal bleeding and death can subsequently occur. When transporting, keep the animal calm, head extended to keep the airway clear, air-conditioning turned up full cold, drive carefully.

6.6 POISONING – Poison is defined as any substance coming in contact with the body in sufficient amounts to cause harm. These substances can contact the animal by:

- being eaten such as rat baits, drug overdoses, snail bait;
- by inhalation such as disinfectants, gases;
- by skin absorption such as insecticides, corrosive agents, petroleum products; or
- from bites of snakes, spiders and ticks.

History:

Don't panic, calmly try to determine what type of poisoning has occurred. Collect evidence of the poison such as product container or label, vomit, diarrhoea, (dead) snake, tick, bait etc to enable accurate identification.

First Aid Treatment:

There are many potentially poisonous substances, each may require different treatments. Here are some which greyhounds are likely to come in contact with.

Insecticides such as ant killers, fly and flea control organophosphates and organochlorines such as Malathion, Gammawash, Baytex.

- Symptoms include history of access including bathing contact, vomiting, diarrhoea, involuntary twitching, convulsions and behavioral changes.
- Induced vomiting must be avoided
- Wash off residues, seek veterinary help.
- Treatable with specific antidotal drugs.

Snail Bait such as Defender which are flavorsome to all animals.

- Symptoms include history of access, incoordination, salivation, convulsions, rapid heart rate, movement aggravates convulsions.
- Induce vomiting only if immediately after seen eating the substance
- Do not induce vomiting when affected as will inhale vomit and suffocate.
- Keep quiet, minimize sensory stimulation
- Seek immediate veterinary attention
- Treatable by intubation and anaesthetization for up to 48 hours.

Rat Bait such as “Rat-Sak”, causes death by preventing normal blood clotting. Action occurs over weeks so may not realize it has ingested the product

- Symptoms can be vague, history of access to product any time in past 2 weeks or access to poisoned vermin who have eaten the substance.
- Low temperature, lethargy, weakness, faeces plum coloured and mucoid pale gums, incoordination and collapse.
- Seek immediate veterinary attention.
- Specific antidote that may have to be administered for up to one month

Snake Bite Most urgent that veterinary attention be immediately sought. Identify markings on snake, if killed bring with you for identification Good chance of survival if known antivenin administered with 1-2 hours.

- Symptoms depend on type of snake, where bitten, how many times bitten, how much venom was absorbed.
- Generally collapse, rapid breathing, incoordination, excitement, paralysis, salivation, dilated pupils, coma, respiratory arrest.
- Tourniquet not considered a benefit as poison spreads rapidly following bite and attacking animal’s excitement.
- First aid is simply rapid transportation to a vet, keep animal calm.

Paralysis Tick carried commonly by bandicoots, attaches to skin as brown match-head size object, injects venomous saliva to facilitate sucking blood. As tick fills with blood takes on a blue appearance.

- Symptoms include change in voice, gagging, vomiting, dilated pupils, panic breathing, hind limb and tail then progressively ascending full paralysis.
- Keep animal calm (part paralysis causes panic)
- Remove tick with tick lifter or drop of tick control product (e.g. Frontline)
- Antiserum at vet essential together with treatment to alleviate paralysis.

- Risk of fatal complications if not treated before paralysis supervenes.

7 COMMON GREYHOUND RACE PROBLEMS AND FIRST AID

Besides the situations already described, greyhounds have many unique racing problems that require first aid attention. Unfortunately trainers are impatient and often do not give the animal ample time to recover and heal the injury, before wanting to 'test' the healing.

- 7.1 Acidosis** Symptoms similar to signs of heat stroke, due to overexertion and excess accumulation of lactic acid in muscles, acute pain over lumbar area, often younger highly strung dogs. Causes disseminated coagulation in capillary blood vessels, affects kidneys, can cause death if left untreated. Massive loss of weight within few days, excess thirst

First Aid treatment:

Cooling the animals rapidly to normal immediately after racing or excess exercise helps avoid the condition. Assess for acute pain over lumbar area if suspected. Condition may not appear for 24 hours. Need specific fluids replacement and kidney flushing intravenously, requiring prompt admission to veterinary hospital required. Animals recovering from acute onset require antibiotics, anabolic support and pain relief. Recovery to normal weight take several weeks.

- 7.2 Muscle injury** involving strains and tears may not be apparent for 24hrs after the run in which it was incurred. Careful palpation of all muscle areas will assist in determining presence and extent of soreness. Practice makes perfect and failure to detect early injury may render progress of that injury career threatening.

First Aid treatment:

Acute injury benefits from ice application to the area. This stops the accumulation of fluid in the area which slows healing and weakens the end result. It was thought that this was effective for only 24 – 48 hours but now human physios apply continued use of ice whilst ever a healing muscle is being used.

Massage after running is beneficial. Human athletes always have a massage after their sport as this relieves tension from strain and relaxes the muscles ensuring better recovery blood flow. Any oil or cream, except those with oil of wintergreen near racing, will suffice as a lubricant.

Needling with drugs, unless the animal is destined for 2 or 3 weeks rest, impose a risk when swabbed. Many home remedy and unregistered injections have contents that are unknown and risk penalties if found on swabbing. Fibrosing drugs such as ethemalon injections add to the likelihood of re-injury due to increasing inelasticity of the muscle.

Hip support muscle tears require suturing when severe. It is an injury often overlooked in young dogs pre-race at breaking in.

- 7.3 Split webbing** is an annoying injury resulting in several weeks lay-off. Whilst it may occur when pulling up or from the starting box edges, it result from over-reaching of hind leg and ‘self stabbing’ at the front or from being clipped by another dog from behind

First Aid treatment:

Is either veterinary suture after ensuring it cannot split further, or natural healing while treating with creams like ‘Lotogen’ or ‘Healogen’. No time is saved either way, surgical repair requires a racing band over an adjacent supporting toe.

- 7.4 Toes**, as they say, are the dog. Many toe areas give problems and these are sensitive. Most toe joint injuries require X-Ray to ensure there is no fracture or chip, as long term pain will result if undetected and untreated. (See also bandaging below.)

Quicks get impacted with sand and dirt and subsequently become infected and very sensitive when handled.

Clean daily with metho or betadine (using toothbrush if infected), pack with swab safe penicillin cream (‘Dry Cow’). After all races hose every dog’s toes forcibly to clean.

Toe dislocations where only a ligament is damaged, heal best by suturing that ligament back. If the injury is left for a few days, ligaments contract and results are poor. Injections with cortisones should be avoided as these decalcify the joint, inhibit ligament repair, eventually resulting in severe arthritis even though relieving the pain short term. These drugs may leach out over time resulting in a positive swab.

Bandaging:

Provides support and protection. There are 3 layers to bandaging, gauze impregnated with petroleum jelly against the wound to be non-adherent, a second layer of conforming cotton to provide absorption and support and a third layer of adhesive bandage designed to hold the other layers in place. Bandaging a

limb starts with the application of 2 adhesive strips, one front and rear, from the wrist or hock to hanging inches below the toes. Start bandaging at the toes and work upwards, leaving toes 3 and 4 partially exposed wrapping from outwards to inwards with the tension desired approximately to the level required and back again. Prominences should be padded and the limb held, while bandaging, in the position ultimately desired. Finally turn up the hanging stirrups and apply elastic tape or wrap from the bottom to the top covering the stirrups and applied bandages overlapping 1/3rd of the previous turn as you go. For injured toes, after dressing the problem area, place cotton wool between the toes first and keep spreading pressure on the toes so as not to squeeze them together by the bandaging.

- 7.5 Illness** – shown by signs involving rising temperature, lethargy, diarrhoea, vomiting may be due to infections, virus or bacteria, and should not be subject to first aid or wait and see. Unless you have been provided with specific drugs by your veterinary surgeon, you should seek veterinary help and advice before assuming treatment knowledge. To do otherwise is to subject all your animals to risk, such as Parvovirus, or cause an avoidable distress and suffering or even loss of the animal.

Isolation

An area or kennel should be set aside to use when needed to isolate sick or injured animals. Recovery will be hastened by quiet and comfort.

8 CONCLUSION

All registered persons involved in the training and care of the greyhound need to have basic skills and knowledge of animal first aid and when and how to apply it. These guidelines are intended to outline the basics in assessing a patient so as to recognize the signs of sickness, injury, pain, distress and suffering and thereby encourage you to seek prompt appropriate treatment. They should not be read as specific veterinary instructions, these can only come from the veterinary surgeon that actually sees the animal.



NSW GREYHOUND ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

DETAILED GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

(A2) – TRAINING PROGRAM GUIDELINES (November 2006)

Introduction

Animal Welfare as it applies to the greyhound is regulated by the Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority (GHRRA) and Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) and involves the application of standards of care which vary with the various stages in the lifecycle of a greyhound but which all have an impact on the attitude and comfort of the animal so as to optimise it's life style from the welfare perspective of the racing environment. As most people enter greyhound racing with the purchase of a young pup, it is at this critical stage in the animal's life that they first become aware of the welfare needs of this animal and the responsibilities towards them. It is appropriate that a new participant owner in particular be aware of the stages that impact on the welfare of the greyhound, including the habitat and daily care.

A most important overarching requirement is access to professional advice, preferably from a veterinary surgeon familiar and interested in the breed, and this should be sought whenever in doubt. Much harm can come from anecdotal actions and treatments offered by well-meaning friends. A useful reference book such as "Care of the Racing Greyhound" will help in this regard.

1	WELFARE CONSIDERATIONS – REARING OF PUPS FROM 8 TO 16 WEEKS
1.1	Good rearing welfare up to 8 weeks of age will have created a bright active pup with pink gums and in the company of likewise healthy pups. Signs of diarrhoea should not be evident in the rearing area.
1.2	Pups should not be removed from their home environment until they are at least 8 weeks of age and have had a vaccine administered by a veterinary surgeon at least 1 week prior. A vet certificate must be available to substantiate this.

1.3	Examine the pups regularly for leg weakness or gait peculiarities and compare activity with others in the litter if possible. Look for symmetry in all directions, any variation may be due to a rearing problem or injury. If you are concerned as to a pup's wellbeing, lameness or sickness, you must seek veterinary help in a timely fashion. That is the law.
1.4	If you are purchasing a pup, seek a refund warranty from the seller that will enable you to have the pup examined by a vet within say 5 days of purchase to determine if there are any problems that your untrained eye has missed. Ask the breeder what food the pup is used to eating, when it was last wormed. And remember 2 pups are easier to rear than one for they thrive on companionship.
1.5	Pups undergoing a change in environment and care will often develop a mild diarrhoea in the first few days and may be finicky with new food at first. Vary the food and twice daily feeding is sufficient otherwise they will eat the "goodies" and leave the rest. Do not leave uneaten food lying around in summer heat.
1.6	Quality commercial dry food is ideal for pups. However meat is always beneficial and raw meaty bones will be welcomed at any age, but a calcium supplement should be included as meat contains an excess of phosphorus and, like sand and cement for concrete, good bone development requires a balanced amount of Calcium and Phosphorous. Vitamins are not essential if a well balanced diet is fed but no harm will come from following a manufacturer's recommended feeding level.
1.7	Worm your pup initially with a puppy wormer a few days after getting it and then every 2 weeks until 16 weeks of age then every 4 to 8 weeks. Make sure you vaccinate the pup again at 12 weeks in compliance with G&HRRRA rules. Consider regular flea treatment with a spot-on product, or a permethrin spray which is safe around kennels as well as on the pup. Avoid organic phosphate chemicals (malathion) or chlorinated hydrocarbons (gammawash) which can cause poisoning.
1.8	Clean fresh water must always be available in containers easily accessible to drink from but which are secured so as not to tip and empty through the pup's antics.
1.9	Yard space must be sufficient to allow galloping, with shade available and constructed so as not to cause injury to an inquisitive pup from fence wire or other objects.
1.10	Weather protection should be a well constructed kennel capable of giving shelter from sun, rain and prevailing winds and of sufficient size to accommodate the number of pups in the yard.
1.11	During this time pups should be handled frequently so as to become used to human company and collars and leads. If your pups are reared on a boarding farm, try to visit them regularly to ensure these welfare needs are being fulfilled, that they are treated regularly against parasites and they are not injured. Remember you as the registered owner are the person held responsible for their welfare.

2	WELFARE CONSIDERATIONS – FROM 16 WEEKS THROUGH PRE-TRAINING
2.1	By four months of age pups should be ready for regular access to larger galloping areas so as to enable running and galloping at full speed to develop their running style and agility. This period of pre-training will be spread over 6 to 12 months based on the individual. At all times the welfare principles outlined for young pups form the basis for welfare care and feeding at this age also.
2.2	They should first be introduced to individual kennel housing and their routine should include leash walking, limb handling, coat brushing etc in preparation for easy handling during active training.
2.3	Home rearing and pre-training under the care of the owner if possible, has much to recommend it through the personal touch, closer supervision and available individual housing. This allows consistency in handling, feeding and proper attention to feet and any veterinary problems when they arise, but may deprive the pup of interaction with its fellows.
2.4	Rearing farms may offer more opportunity for development in their natural environment and should provide larger galloping areas or runs of at least 80 metres or more. Galloping areas or paddocks should be 1 to 2 acres minimum and the pups allowed to run free at least every 2 to 3 days. Suitable kennels and likely overcrowding in yards is something to be considered as this is a significant cause of injuries. Selection of a suitable rearing property is best based on advice from other users and a personal inspection, bearing in mind these welfare matters.
2.5	In preparation for breaking-in, pups should receive regular physical exercise so as to condition their limbs for the rigors of breaking in. This can be done by whistling them up a straight run of 200 plus meters on regular occasions. Young greyhounds are easily injured if they are presented to the breakers without some pre-conditioning.

3	WELFARE CONSIDERATIONS - BREAKING IN
3.1	Breaking in is a job for skilled and experienced persons using G&HRRA licensed facilities. These facilities have a responsibility to ensure the welfare of animals under their care as part of the licensing requirements. Seek the experiences of others in selecting a facility for your greyhounds.
3.2	Break-in training involves a period of 4 weeks teaching the greyhound to chase the artificial lure, to go around a circular track and jump in a racing fashion from the starting box. At the end of the program the greyhound is ready for a rest!
3.3	After returning from break-in, the animal should be rested for 1 to 2 months to allow it to recover from muscle soreness, to be wormed and recover any condition lost. It should be kennel housed and walked but galloping kept to a minimum.

4	WELFARE CONSIDERATIONS - TRAINING THE RACER
4.1	There is an <u>absolute prohibition on the use of live lures</u> in the training of greyhounds.
4.2	Training is an art form developed with experience. However welfare as it applies to the racing animal involves an enforceable common sense approach to ensuring everything is done to minimise discomfort and to maximise the animal's well being in the racing circumstance.
4.3	Housing must be suitable for the athlete. Typically a washable concrete floor, raised comfortable bed, at least pool-fence type wire separation between units, warmth, ventilation and cleanliness and the animal kept at a comfortable temperature and free from disturbing outside noise. The kennel must be secure, without projections likely to cause injury. Electric light access is important.
4.4	Feeding regimes vary but essentially consists of morning biscuits and milk with the evening meal of varied quantities of meat kibble bread or vegetables. Feeding must relate to the physical activity and in this regard the regular weighing of the animal to ensure it is not losing condition is important.
4.5	Water must always be available. Excessive thirst in a racing greyhound implies a problem which is a welfare issue, and that animal needs veterinary attention.
4.6	Training methods are a matter of experience and skill. However excessive training workloads or trialing in unsuitable temperatures resulting in conditions such as acidosis and even cramping are a welfare issue and must be resolved with professional advice. Injuries are likely to occur varying from muscle strain to severe limb problems and trainers should check their dogs for soreness after a race or trial or seek advice from experienced persons. All these problems will become a welfare issue to be dealt with by the Authority if they are neglected or ignored.

5	WELFARE CONSIDERATIONS – THE BREEDING BITCH GREYHOUND
5.1	The bitch chosen for breeding can be expected to come into season every 6 to 12 months. In preparation for this after ending her racing career, she should be well fed so as to be heavier than her racing weight, be regularly wormed every month and again immunised. If a choice of sire has been made, contact the stud master to make the arrangements he may require for the mating before she comes in season.
5.2	Prepare for her birthing needs. Ensure you will have access to veterinary services should problems occur, create a whelping area in a place or room that can be kept at a reasonable temperature. Gather newspapers for lining the area, which are easily disposable. However when the puppies are able to move more actively after a few days, newspaper gives their little feet no grip and they need a carpet or washable cloth for the floor to get grip. Ensure you have electricity and electric light for nature seems to start these things in the middle of the night.
5.3	When mated, no physical signs of pregnancy will be found until approximately 23 days after mating, when careful palpation of the abdomen or ultra sound by a vet can detect the presence of pups. Talk to your vet at this time as to what to expect when labour commences.
5.4	The bitch is pregnant for 63 days approx. During the first third of this period, avoid high temperatures and the use of chemicals as these could affect the earlier stages of the developing pups. You do not need to increase the feeding at this stage. During the second 3 weeks of pregnancy increase the food level by one third. During the final 3 weeks twice the normal amount of food may be fed divided into at least two daily meals to accommodate increased abdominal space occupied by the puppies.
5.5	When whelping is imminent the bitch will go off her food, become agitated, panting, digging holes. When labour has obviously commenced with her water having broken, the first puppy should be born within not more than 2 hours and be followed by another within the same time. Sometimes after 2 or more pups are born the bitch may rest comfortably without straining for 2 or even 3 hours. However if unproductive straining persists beyond 2 hours, veterinary assistance must be sought.
5.6	A liquid calcium supplement for the bitch, even cold full strength cow's milk offered to drink, is especially beneficial during the whelping process.
5.7	Puppies cannot control their body temperature for several days after birth. They are particularly affected by cold and will use what little energy they have to keep warm and then fade and die. Make sure the whelping area is insulated. Too hot puppies spread out and cry, cold puppies huddle and cry. Pups should be warm to the touch, not cold, and lie comfortably but spread out after feeding.
5.8	Bitches may have occasional black globs of discharge for 4 to 6 weeks after whelping. Provided she is eating well and caring for the pups, this is not unreasonable, it is a non-infectious clearing of the womb detritus. However hot and painful breasts are a sign of mastitis and this must receive urgent veterinary treatment.

5.9	After whelping the bitch appears to produce little milk during the first 3 days but this first milk or colostrum is essential for the pup and is rich in antibodies and special nutrients. The bitch will hardly leave the whelping box during this time to ensure each pup receives it's share of colostrum
5.10	Do not be tempted to feed the pup by syringe or bottle unless you first consult your vet. Pups depend in the suckling reflex to enable swallowing and liquid put in their mouth may just trickle into their lungs causing pneumonia. The bitch relies on you feeding her to keep her milk factory producing, so feeding 3 or 4 times a day is warranted and during the first few days hand feeding will be appreciated.
5.11	Pups open their eyes at 9 – 12 days and are able to feed themselves by 3½ weeks. Many people favour leaving the pups with their mother until 3 months of age or even older.
5.12	Puppy worming MUST start no later than 3 weeks of age using a liquid puppy worm syrup, repeat every 2 weeks until at least 8 weeks of age. The nursing bitch can be wormed at the same intervals.



NSW GREYHOUND ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

DETAILED GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

(A3) – NUTRITION GUIDELINES (November 2006)

1	NUTRITION – GENERAL
1.1	The age old saying that 60% of a greyhounds ability goes down the neck is an appreciation that a greyhound must receive appropriate and sufficient food and water at all times to maintain good health and growth as well as dealing with the special needs of the various activity stages of development and finally racing.
1.2	The essentials of food are proteins, carbohydrates, fibre, fat and various mineral and vitamins. Today the prepared canine feedstuff market is very competitive with excellent proprietary prepared dry or semi moist feeds available and selection of one against another can be difficult. Choose for palatability and on a dollar value the one that has the highest labeled protein.
1.3	Meat is the traditional and staple primary feed for greyhounds. However it will vary in quality so take care in selection that the water and fat content is not excessive.
1.4	Water and preservative are often added to commercial dog meats and the preservative may cause a deficiency of Vitamin B1, Thiamine, with harmful consequences.
1.5	Feed from clean containers, stainless steel dishes are the most durable and are easily cleaned.
1.6	Brood bitch feeding requires incrementing the amounts and daily frequency throughout pregnancy. For her additives of Calcium, Vitamin E are needed together with extras such as egg yolk, honey or vegemite to maintain and stimulate appetite.
1.7	Lactating bitches will have a food intake need of 2 to 3 times pre-whelping levels. She becomes a milk factory and the better she is fed in terms of quality as well as quantity the more healthy and robust will be the foundation for her pups' futures.

2	NUTRITION FOR PUPS
2.1	Pups can be started to learn self feeding from 3½ to 4 weeks of age.
2.2	Excellent proprietary puppy starter feeds such a Pal Puppy Porridge will teach them the mechanics of eating.
2.3	Move on to a minced meat and soaked kibble fed as a porridge consistency.
2.4	Pups need at least 3 feeds a day.
2.5	Temper the amount by cutting back if some is uneaten prior to the next feed.

3	NUTRITION FOR GREYHOUNDS UP TO 12 MONTHS
3.1	From weaning to 12 months, young greyhounds need up to twice the feed of the mature greyhound.
3.2	Meat with a higher fat content than that fed to racing dogs and quality kibble, feeding twice a day up to 6 months then at least once a day, with raw meaty bones 2 or 3 times each week.
3.3	Compared to a race trained dogs, young pups should look forward to fat in condition.
3.4	Failure to ensure maximum growth and development through adequate nutrition in feeding at this stage of development will result in poor racing capacity.
3.5	Do not leave uneaten food lying in the hot sun or diarrhoea will result.
3.6	A calcium supplement should be added.

4	NUTRITION FOR RACING GREYHOUNDS
4.1	Racing greyhounds should be fed twice daily: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morning feed usually consists of biscuits and milk or honey - Evening meal is Meat, Kibble and additives - Fluids equal to 2x volume of kibble, are added to the evening meal just before feeding to ensure water intake and to increase palatability of kibble.
4.2	Feeds can be varied, such as stews, chicken meat and raw meaty bones, but the objectives of steady race weights and good health are paramount.
4.3	Vitamins are not essential if a balanced diet is fed, however these proprietary compounds such as Ferramo, add a flavour to the diet making it more appetizing.
4.4	Electrolyte supplements should be used with caution. Too much can be harmful and cause dehydration not prevent it. Seek professional advice not advertisers spin.
4.5	Calcium supplement is beneficial but only a full teaspoonful daily.
4.6	Iron supplement can be given especially if chicken meat is fed.

4.7	Vitamin supplement using a human multi vitamin product is more reliable as to quality and content.
4.8	When pet meat with preservative is fed, a Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) supplement should be fed in the morning breakfast, not with the preservative containing meat.
4.9	Water must be available at all times in secure non-tippable containers. Clean containers, clean water. Ensure it is kept cool, at least in the shade on hot summer days.
4.10	The weight of your dog is a valuable indicator of too much or too little food relative to work load and also a reflection of health. Regular use of scales is essential to ensure the nutritional well-being of the dog.