

GREYHOUND RACING WA





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Greyhound racing in WA encompasses three greyhound tracks and generates \$146.3 million in economic contribution to the state. Beyond that, greyhound racing is a vital part of life for thousands of people. It provides social and community engagement as well as opportunities to work with animals.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

\$146.3 million annual value added to the WA economy	1 race club and 3 racetracks – Cannington, Northam and Mandurah	Around 350 race meetings and more than 4000 races a year	More than 2000 people who participate in greyhound racing
1,330 full-time equivalent employment	Almost 60,000 attendances at race meetings each year	Fosters a sense of worth and belonging for more than 240 volunteers	Provides employment for people with specialist skills

Source: Size and Scope of the Western Australian Racing Industry, IER Pty Ltd, 2021

GOVERNANCE

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWVA) is the governing body responsible for regulating racing in WA. Strict governance and integrity standards are applied to greyhound racing across the state.

RULES OF RACING

The Rules of Racing are designed to protect all racing animals. They are effectively laws that regulate the action of all people in racing. The racing sector is also subject to the same legislation that governs welfare in WA, the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. By comparison the Rules of Racing are much more prescriptive, outlining the requirements for many different areas of greyhound care. They are also able to be enforced strictly and rapidly, without reliance on the court system.

STEWARDS

Stewards are the police of racing in WA and have the power to strictly enforce the Rules of Racing, both on and off the track. Stewards can, at any time, come on to a property where racing animals are kept. Unannounced kennel inspections are regularly carried out to check on racing greyhounds. Stewards' powers as prescribed within the *RWVA Act 2003*, are more extensive than those provided to the police, and include the power to compel people to give evidence, admit entry and answer questions.

PENALTIES

Stewards can apply severe penalties to those who break the rules, including substantial fines and disqualifications. Animal welfare is taken very seriously when it comes to penalties. If animal welfare is seriously compromised, stewards can impose fines of up to \$100,000 or remove people from continuing to own or train racing animals through cancellations of licenses or disqualifications (either permanently or for a period of time).

LICENSING & REGISTRATION

All people in the racing sector are licensed and undergo a thorough examination to determine if they are a fit and proper person to be licensed, this includes a police clearance check. Racing greyhounds must also be registered and are tracked during all stages of their racing careers. Stewards have the power to refuse to grant a license or register a person if there are any concerns.

SPECIALISED INVESTIGATIONS

Outside of the stewards, there is a specialised Racing Investigations Unit, which investigates any suspected welfare concerns or wrongdoing by people in the racing sector. People are encouraged to report any concerns they may have and are able to remain anonymous.





GREYHOUND WELFARE

Greyhounds are the heart of racing and high standards of care are provided from birth to retirement. A comprehensive welfare strategy guides RWWA in fulfilling its commitment to safeguard the wellbeing of greyhounds.

OUR VISION

To set the highest standard in animal welfare for the WA racing community.

OUR MISSION

To ensure that current and best standards of care are provided to racing greyhounds during all stages of their lives.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THIS?

Evidence-based decisions.
Transparent and dependable data.
Impactful and measurable advances in animal welfare.

FOCUS AREAS

GOVERNANCE: continue to be forward thinking and leaders in setting the standards that maximise welfare during all stages of a greyhound's life.

RACING: enhance existing practices and regulations to support the welfare and safety of all greyhounds.

REHOMING: further support the adoption of retired greyhounds, through advances in rehoming practices.

INDUSTRY CULTURE AND EDUCATION: maintain a culture whereby the welfare of greyhounds is at the forefront of all decisions.

A range of welfare initiatives and programs are in place to ensure the best standards of care are provided to greyhound athletes during their racing careers.

To ensure these high standards are upheld, racing is governed by overarching rules and regulations which are enforced by stewards.

RACING

STRICT BREEDING CONTROLS

WA has a small breeding population in comparison to other states and has strict controls in place to ensure responsible breeding, which state that female greyhounds:

- Must be registered to breed.
- Are not allowed to be bred after the age of eight unless she meets certain criteria, including a veterinary health and fitness assessment as well as proven success from previous litters.
- Only allowed to have a maximum of five litters.
- No more than two litters in any 18-month period.
- Must be up to date with vaccinations.

SUPPORT SCHEMES

In WA, 99.8% of greyhound starters race safely without sustaining major injuries. The racing sector actively strives to limit the risk of any injury to greyhounds, as this is an outcome that everyone wishes to avoid. In the event a greyhound does sustain an injury, there are two schemes in place to ensure the greyhounds receive the appropriate care. This includes financial support provided to the owner/ trainer to assist with veterinarian costs, or alternatively the ownership of the greyhound is signed over to the Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) program, where all veterinarian costs are paid for. At the appropriate time, the greyhound is then rehomed through GAP.

TRACEABILITY

Racing greyhounds are registered and tracked throughout all stages of their lives, from birth to retirement. All owners must be licensed and any transfer of ownership is lodged with RWWA as the regulator. Similarly, the location of greyhounds must be disclosed. This ensures the responsible person and the location of a greyhound is known at all times.

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE CONTROL

In WA, the use of prohibited substances in racing is rare, with 99.8% of swabs returning a negative result. However, there continues to be a significant investment of \$350,000 annually in prohibited substance control for greyhound racing, with more than 1,200 swabs collected each year. Swabs can be collected both at the races and at trainer's private properties. If a positive swab is detected, racing participants face severe penalties, including loss of livelihood.

KENNEL INSPECTIONS

Stewards regularly conduct inspections at properties where racing animals are kept. There is around 160 licensed greyhound trainers in WA, with approximately 170 inspections undertaken by stewards each year. Stewards also attend to inspect and identify all litters at approximately six weeks of age.

VETERINARY CARE

Present at all greyhound race meetings is a veterinarian and a veterinarian nurse. All greyhounds are checked prior to every race by the veterinarian to ensure they are fit and healthy. If there are any concerns, the greyhound will not be able to race. Greyhounds that exhibit any sign of injury during a race also undergo veterinary examination immediately.

WELFARE POLICIES

There are a number of policies to protect the welfare of racing greyhounds, including:

- **Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds**, which is based on scientific knowledge and recommended industry practice, and sets the minimum standards to safeguard welfare. The Code was developed in conjunction with the RSPCA as well as experts in greyhound management, welfare and veterinary science.
- **Greyhound Racing Hot Weather Policy**, which details the appropriate practices required on-course to ensure the proper management of hot weather, safeguarding the health and welfare of both greyhounds and participants.

RACECOURSE FACILITIES AND SURFACES

As part of racing's commitment to provide the highest animal welfare standards, a review by the University Technology of Sydney (UTS) was commissioned. The review assessed WA's three greyhound tracks against the latest design and maintenance technology and research. The UTS review and recommendations provide clear advice on improving and elevating current standards at the three tracks, with current and planned works underway.

LIFE OUTSIDE OF RACING

RESPONSIBLE REHOMING

In WA, the Rules of Racing ensure all greyhounds are responsibly rehomed, including those that don't race. Unless there is a medical or behavioural reason determined by a veterinarian or qualified animal behaviourist, all greyhounds bred for racing must be rehomed. All statistics around the number of greyhounds entering the industry or retiring from it are openly reported in RWWA's Annual Report.

ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE COURSE

GAP has partnered with Applied Vocational Training (AVT) to facilitate a short-term intensive course in animal care and welfare. AVT's nationally recognised course, *ACM20121 Certificate II in Animal Care (Animal Health and Welfare)*, provides training for students seeking a career in animal care. The course is based both on-campus at the AVT Bentley training facility, at the Cat Haven in Shenton Park and at the GAP kennel facility in Southern River.

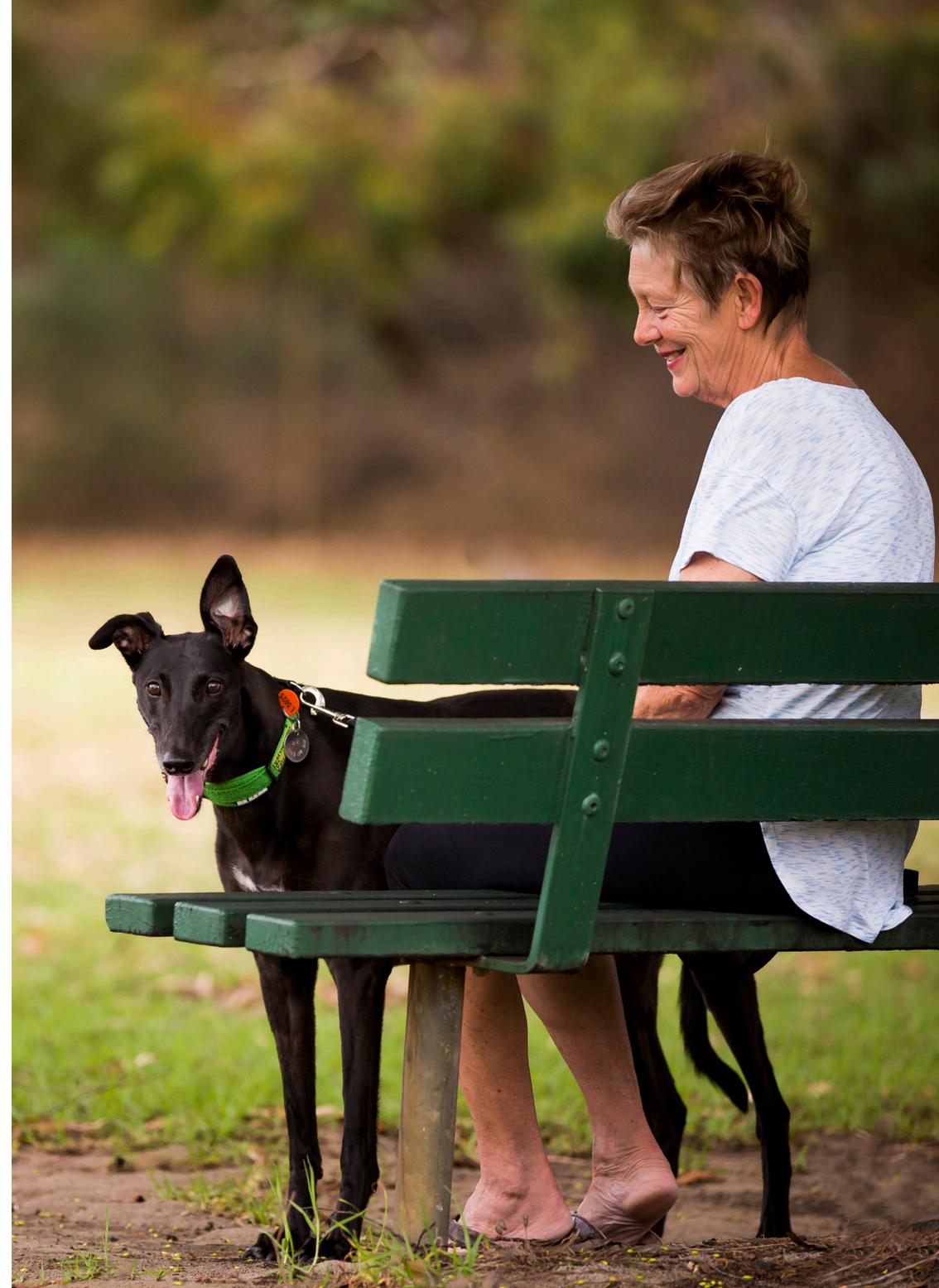
GREYHOUND AS PETS

Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) is RWWA's rehoming program and matches retired greyhounds with their forever homes. The program has dedicated animal behaviourists who use their expertise in canine behaviour to assist greyhounds to adjust from life as an athlete to life as a pet. Each greyhound is provided with a tailored plan to suit their individual needs.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

The racing community works with other greyhound rehoming groups to maximise rehoming and foster care opportunities for retired greyhounds. This includes providing financial assistance for rehoming to other organisations.

Under the Rules of Racing all greyhounds rehomed through third party organisations must be sterilised and have undergone a dental treatment prior to retirement. This helps to ensure both responsible rehoming as well as alleviate any financial pressure on rehoming groups for these treatments.





RACING AND WAGERING
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