

WE ARE ANIMAL PEOPLE

GREYHOUND WELFARE IN WA

OUR COMMITMENT

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

OUR VISION

To set and uphold the highest standards in animal welfare for the WA racing community.

OUR MISSION

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



FOCUS AREAS

GOVERNANCE

Continue to be forward thinking and leaders in setting 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 where the welfare of the greyhounds is at the forefront of all decisions.



RACING CARE

As dog people, we have great respect and admiration for their speed, strength and athleticism. Their wellbeing, however, is most important and we want to ensure high standards of care are provided to greyhounds during their racing careers.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

RWWA has Rules of Racing in place which include strict rules on the care and treatment of greyhounds. Stewards are the police of the industry who enforce these rules on and off the track.

WELFARE POLICIES

- Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds
- Hot Weather Policy
- Strict breeding controls
- Prohibited substance control

TRACEABILITY

All racing greyhounds are registered and tracked from birth to retirement. All owners must also be licenced, and any transfer of ownership is lodged with RWWA as the regulator. Similarly, the location of all greyhounds must be disclosed.



VETERINARY CARE

A veterinarian attends all race meetings in WA. All greyhounds are checked prior to every race 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.

KENNEL INSPECTIONS

Stewards regularly conduct inspections at properties where greyhounds are kept. There are around 160 licenced greyhound trainers in WA, with approximately 170 inspections undertaken each year. Stewards also inspect and identify all litters at around six weeks of age.

SUPPORT SCHEMES

In WA, 99.8% of greyhounds race safely without sustaining major injuries. In the event a greyhound does sustain an injury, RWWA offers financial support to assist with veterinarian costs, or alternatively the ownership of the greyhound is signed over to Greyhounds as Pets WA (GAP), where all veterinarian costs are covered.

LIFE OUTSIDE OF RACING

Greyhounds, like any athlete, deserve a rewarding retirement. We have initiatives and programs in place to support a successful transition from athlete to pet, such as GAP, which promote and facilitate greyhound pet ownership to the WA community.

RESPONSIBLE REHOMING

The Rules of Racing ensure all greyhounds are responsibly rehomed, including those that don't race. Statistics showing the number of greyhounds entering the sector or retiring from it are openly reported in RWWA's annual report.

GREYHOUNDS AS PETS (GAP)

GAP is RWWA's greyhound rehoming program who match retired greyhounds with their forever homes. Dedicated animal behaviourists use their expertise in canine behaviour to assist greyhounds in the adjustment from life as an athlete to life as a pet.

WORKING TOGETHER

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

ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE COURSE

GAP has partnered with Applied Vocational Training (AVT) to facilitate the nationally recognised course, Certificate II in Animal Care. The course is based both on-campus at the AVT Bentley training facility, at Cat Haven in Shenton Park and GAP in Southern River.