



# National Greyhound Welfare Strategy

## Industry Notification and Feedback – Breeding & Vaccination Requirements

### Background

The Greyhound racing industry in Australia is aware that the welfare of its racing animals is extremely important and is working towards a more consistent national approach to welfare issues. Uniform high standards of care, education, accountability and enforcement are required across the country to ensure the best possible outcome for greyhounds at every stage of their lifecycle.

Industry success is tightly paired to excellence in animal welfare. The industry is open to ongoing scrutiny from the general public, whose expectations about how we look after our racing animals continues to evolve. Our industry must continue to change to meet those expectations and the high expectations we have of ourselves.

Greyhounds Australasia (GA), along with the state controlling bodies, recognise that the time has come for all state jurisdictions to align their strategies so our standards of care and the welfare of every greyhound continues to improve and is not impacted by the movement of greyhounds from state to state.

The industry's National Greyhound Welfare Strategy was approved by the GA Board in May 2014. Amongst its objectives are better protection of the welfare of our industry's breeding animals, and reducing the number of greyhounds bred that are unlikely to be suited to racing.

New rules to support the achievement of these objectives have been drafted and are proposed to come into effect on 1 July 2015. GA is now seeking participant feedback on the new rules to guide the industry's approach to these important matters and to ensure responsible and considered implementation of each new rule.

Between 1 December 2014 and 15 January 2015, all participants, but particularly those involved in breeding greyhounds, are invited to complete this attached feedback form in time for your opinions and suggestions to be considered by GA's Welfare Working Party and the GA Board in early 2015.

GA and its controlling bodies thank you for taking the time to tell us what you think. We look forward to working together as we continue to improve the welfare of all greyhounds.

**All completed feedback forms must be received by Greyhounds Australasia by the close of business on Thursday 15 January 2015**

You can submit your form in a number of ways:

- Via email - [feedback@galtd.org.au](mailto:feedback@galtd.org.au)
- Via Fax - +61 3 9548 3488
- Via Post - PO Box 239, Springvale, Vic, 3171
- In person – Greyhounds Australasia Office, Sandown Greyhound Racing Complex, Lightwood Road, Springvale, Victoria.



## Participant Feedback Form – Breeding & Vaccination Changes

### PART A – INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

#### 1. Which racing jurisdiction do you reside in?

- |                              |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACT | <input type="checkbox"/> SA  | <input type="checkbox"/> NT  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NSW | <input type="checkbox"/> VIC | <input type="checkbox"/> NZ  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> QLD | <input type="checkbox"/> WA  | <input type="checkbox"/> TAS |

#### 2. Which of the following industry roles are you involved in? (Please tick all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> TRAINER       | <input type="checkbox"/> WHELPER (Whelping litters for others) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OWNER         | <input type="checkbox"/> BREAKER                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLUB OFFICIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> CATCHER/ATTENDANT                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BREEDER       | <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED PERSON (Frozen semen)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REARER        | <input type="checkbox"/> STUDMASTER                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> VETERINARIAN                          |

#### 3. Have you been recorded as the BREEDER of a litter of racing greyhounds in the last five (5) years?

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

#### 4. In the last five (5) years how many litters of racing greyhounds have you bred?

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONE | <input type="checkbox"/> 10-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5  | <input type="checkbox"/> 20+   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 |                                |

#### 5. In the last five (5) years how many litters of racing greyhounds have you whelped and raised yourself?

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NONE | <input type="checkbox"/> 10-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-5  | <input type="checkbox"/> 20+   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 |                                |

#### 6. Are you a member of your state's participant representative organisation – i.e. GOTBA (VIC), GBOTA (NSW)?

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

## Participant Feedback Form – Breeding & Vaccination Changes

### PART B – PROPOSED RULE CHANGES - BREEDING

#### 1. Amendment to the Registration requirements for Breeding Females (Brood Bitches)

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##### ***GAR 127 – Registration of sire and breeding female (brood bitch)***

*(6) A greyhound shall not be used as a brood bitch unless registered as a ‘breeding female’.*

*(7) All documents and other items in relation to a breeding female shall be open for inspection by an officer of the Controlling Body.*

*(8) Application for registration as a breeding female may be made by the owner or authorised person by lodging with the Controlling Body –*

*a) a completed prescribed form with any fee that may apply; and*

*b) at the expense of the applicant a DNA fingerprint analysis carried out by a laboratory designated by Greyhounds Australasia on a sample taken by a veterinary surgeon or other approved person, and*

*c) evidence of a current vaccination status against parvovirus, hepatitis, canine distemper, parainfluenza virus and bordatella bronchiseptica (C5) issued by a veterinary surgeon identifying the greyhound by reference to its sex, ear branding and/or microchip identifications.*

*(9) The granting of registration of a breeding female shall be conditional on the greyhound being in the control of the applicant or other approved person.*

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#### **What will this proposed rule change?**

- Previously, there was no formal registration process or separate ‘status’ for breeding females
- DNA profile will now be required before service can take place. Currently it is a requirement before a litter can be registered, meaning many breeders put off testing until pregnancy is confirmed, or until pups are whelped
- New vaccination requirement to level of C5

#### **Why is this change being proposed?**

- To ensure breeders are committed to breeding with a bitch, and have thought ahead, rather than making hasty decisions when their bitch comes into season.
- To ensure DNA parentage confirmation is conducted PRIOR to the bitch being bred – protecting the investment of the breeder, and any potential purchasers.
- To provide an opportunity for new breeders to be educated about breeding, sire selection, whelping and raising a litter PRIOR to any service taking place.
- To increase the level of protection against disease for the individual breeding female.

# National Greyhound Welfare Strategy

- To increase the level of maternal antibody passed onto puppies by ensuring all breeding females have good immunity prior to service. This, in turn, helps prevent disease and possible death of puppies due to preventable diseases, minimising losses.
- To ensure that a breeding female's vaccination status meets the requirements for boarding under relevant (state based) Codes of Practice, particularly for those females that are not housed at the owner's property.

In relation to the **amendment to the registration requirements for Breeding Females (Brood Bitches)**:

1a) Since 2011, Stud Sire registration has been controlled nationally and incurs a once-off registration fee. What do you think is an appropriate fee structure for registration of breeding females?

- A ONCE OFF FEE  A YEARLY REGISTRATION FEE
- A BREEDING 'BOND' (charged per litter or per pup, and partially or fully refunded once pups from the litter reach the track and race)

1b) Do you think there should be any **additional** conditions for registration as a Breeding Female – either for the BREEDER/OWNER or for the GREYHOUND?

Give details:

1c) Please provide any other comments relating to the registration requirements for a breeding female:

## 2. Introduction of an upper age limit for Breeding Females (Brood Bitches)

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GAR 127

*(10) The owner of a breeding female, or the person with authority to breed that female, shall not cause her to be mated if that breeding female is over the age of eight (8) years of age without prior veterinary certification of appropriate health and fitness, and the approval of the Controlling Body in writing.*

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### What will this proposed rule change?

- Previously there have been no age limits for breeding – breeders could breed any female greyhound provided she had reached the required age for naming.
- The new rule will see a requirement for the breeder to have the greyhound examined by a veterinarian to ensure that she is fit to have another litter, PRIOR to her being served
- The veterinary certificate stating the greyhound’s fitness for breeding will need to be provided to the Controlling Body before approval for the service will be given

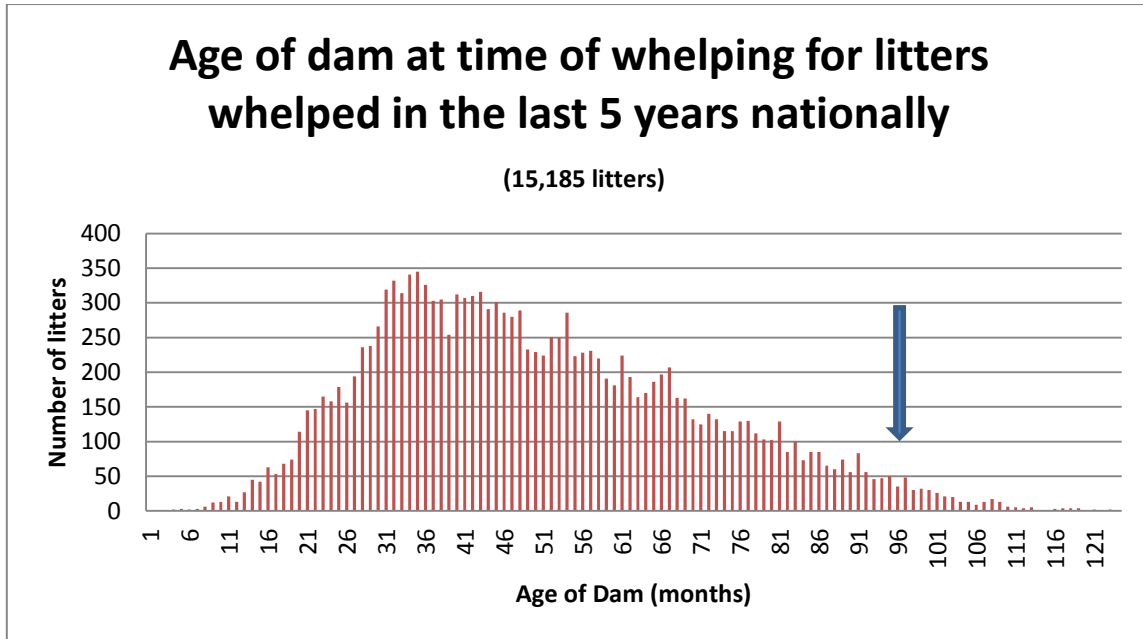
### Why is this being proposed?

- To protect the welfare of the breeding female by ensuring that as she gets older, her health and fitness will not be adversely affected by being bred with.
- To protect the welfare of the breeding female by ensuring that she is fit for an anaesthetic if surgical implantation of frozen semen is being considered.
- To ensure that any litter of pups resulting from a service have the best chances of receiving adequate nutrition for the critical stages of growth and development during pregnancy and suckling, therefore maximising their chances of success later in life.
- To bring the industry into line with other Breeding ‘Codes of Practice’ and ‘Codes of Ethics’.

### How many older bitches are bred?

Industry statistics show that most litters are whelped when the bitch is in the age range of 2-6 years and that very few bitches whelp litters after the age of seven years (see graph on next page).

We do, however, see some breeders continue to breed from a bitch into ‘old age’, with varying success.



*In relation to the **introduction of an upper age limit for Breeding Females (Brood Bitches):***

2a) What are your views on an age limit being imposed on Breeding Females? Do you think a veterinary certificate is enough to allow a breeding female to exceed an upper age limit or should there be other conditions?

2b) Please provide any other comments relating to the introduction of an upper age limit for Breeding Females:

## 3. Introduction of a cap to the number of litters from an individual Breeding Female (Brood Bitch)

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GAR 127

*(11) A breeding female cannot be used for breeding more than three (3) litters without prior veterinary certification of appropriate health and fitness for further litters, and the approval of the National Breeding Review panel in writing.*

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### What will this proposed rule change?

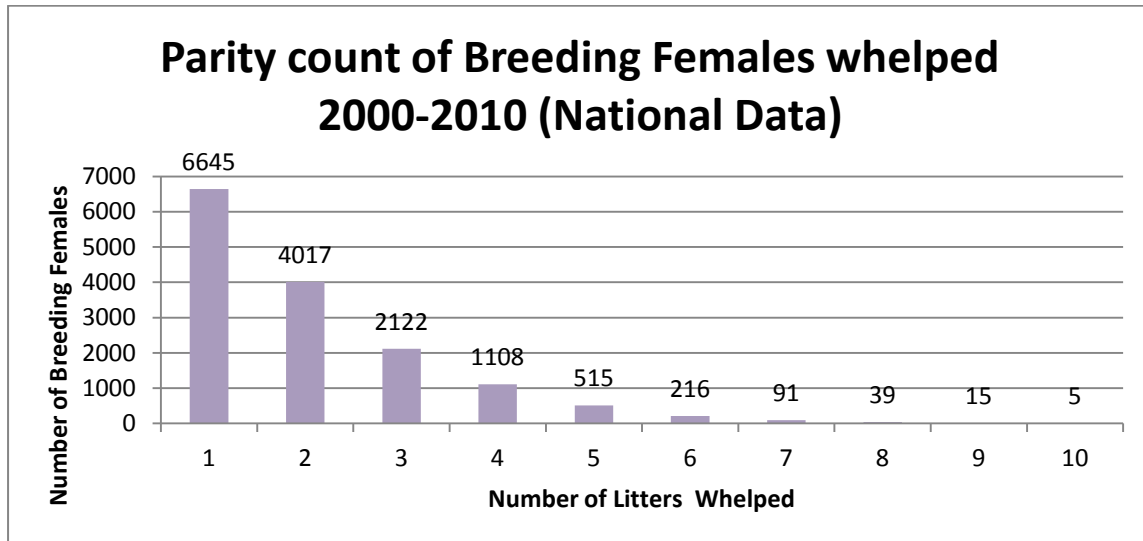
- Previously there have been no limitations to the number of litters a single bitch could whelp.
- This rule would allow breeders to have up to three litters from a single bitch without any restrictions. In most cases, this would provide the breeder with a very good idea of what she is able to produce.
- If a breeder would like to go on to breed a fourth, fifth or even sixth litter from the bitch, they would need to apply each time to a National Review panel, stating their reasons for wanting to continue to breed from her.
- The breeder would also need to have the bitch examined by a Veterinary Surgeon to ensure that she was fit to have another litter.

### Why is this being proposed?

- Statistics compiled by the Victorian Responsible Breeding Taskforce in 2007 indicated a brood bitch that had not produced successful offspring in her first three litters was highly unlikely to produce successful offspring in subsequent litters, regardless of the sire used.
- The industry is committed to reducing the number of pups born that have very limited chances of ever racing.
- To prevent the ongoing breeding of brood bitches that have not produced successful offspring in their first three litters (unless there are extenuating circumstances that have affected the pup's chances of success).
- A National Breeding Review Panel, responsible for deciding whether a brood bitch who has had three litters is allowed to be mated with for a fourth or subsequent time, will allow for a more standardised and transparent approval process for all breeders, regardless of their state of residence.
- To ensure that breeders have reviewed their bitch's success as a producer of racing dogs prior to planning their next litter, and to ensure that they have thoroughly considered their future breeding plans to maximise their chances of success.
- To protect the welfare of the breeding female by ensuring that after whelping three litters, her health and fitness will not be adversely affected by being bred again.

## How many bitches have four or more litters?

Industry statistics show that most bitches have one, two or three litters over their lifetime, only 13.5% of all bitches have a fourth litter and less than 6% of bitches have five or more litters (see graph below).



***In relation to the Introduction of a cap to the number of litters from an individual Breeding Female (Brood Bitch):***

3a) What factors/success criteria relating to previous litters would you consider important when considering granting an exemption for a bitch to be bred for the fourth (or subsequent) time?

*For example: 'if she had whelped less than 6 live pups over the three litters' or 'must have at least 50% of pups from the first two/three litters race'*



3b) A 'National Breeding Review Panel' is proposed to assess applications from breeders requesting to breed their bitch for a fourth or subsequent litter. Who do you think should be represented on, or make up this panel?

3c) Please provide any other comments relating to the introduction of a limit to the number of litters from an individual Breeding Female:

## 4. Introduction of a limit to the frequency of litters for an individual Breeding Female (Brood Bitch)

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GAR 127

*(12) The owner of a breeding female, or the person with authority to breed that female, shall not cause her to whelp more than two (2) litters in any 18 month period.*

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### What will this proposed rule change?

- Previously there have been no restrictions to the frequency that a bitch is mated
- This proposed rule will prevent a bitch from being mated at three successive seasons (if she is a '6 month' bitch)
- Bitches that cycle only once a year will not be affected by this rule

### Why is this being proposed?

- Pregnancy and feeding a litter take its toll on a bitch, depleting vital nutrients from her body stores. Bitches need time to recover and replenish their body stores after a litter, and the time required for this will vary based on the size of her litter, whether she required a caesarean, and how good a mother she is.
- Litters at two consecutive seasons, particularly in young, healthy bitches, are usually not an issue but research has shown that the health and nutritional status of the bitch impacts the development of puppies. If the bitch's health and nutritional status is compromised it can affect litter size, birth weight and may have permanent or long lasting effects on the puppies.
- Where a bitch has her first three litters at consecutive six month seasons, it also means that she is bred for the third time BEFORE the pups from the first litter are old enough to be broken in, and their ability assessed.
- The industry is committed to reducing the number of pups born that have very limited chances of ever racing
- To bring the industry into line with other Breeding 'Codes of Practice' and 'Codes of Ethics'

### *In relation to the* **Introduction of a limit to the frequency of litters for an individual Breeding Female (Brood Bitch):**

4a) Please provide any comments relating to the introduction of a limit to the frequency of litters for an individual Breeding Female:

## PART C – PROPOSED RULE CHANGES – VACCINATION

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### GAR 115

*(2) Application for registration/naming of a greyhound may be made by an owner by lodging with the Controlling Body in the state where the greyhound was whelped a completed prescribed form together with the prescribed fee and a certificate of vaccination against parvovirus infection, hepatitis, canine distemper, parainfluenza virus and bordatella bronchiseptica (C5) acceptable to the Controlling Body.*

### GAR 137

*(1) (b) a certificate of vaccination against parvovirus, hepatitis, canine distemper (C3) issued by a veterinary surgeon identifying the greyhound by reference to its sex and colour, and where applicable, its earbranding and/or microchip identifications, that indicate that such vaccination was performed upon the greyhound at least between six (6) and eight (8) weeks.*

### GAR 137

*(1) (c) a certificate of vaccination against parvovirus, hepatitis, canine distemper, parainfluenza virus and bordatella bronchiseptica (C5) issued by a veterinary surgeon identifying the greyhound by reference to its sex, colour, earbranding, and/or microchip identifications, that indicate that such vaccination was performed upon the greyhound between ten (10) and sixteen (16) weeks.*

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### What will this proposed rule change?

- Increasing the level of vaccination required for naming from C3 to C5
- Increasing the level of vaccination required for litter registration from C3 to C5
- Adding a compulsory six-eight week vaccine for puppies with a minimum level of C3

### Why is this being proposed?

- To increase the level of protection against disease for individual greyhounds, reducing the risk and severity of preventable diseases
- To increase the level of immunity across the racing greyhound population to further decrease the likelihood of disease outbreaks
- To minimise disease and possible death of puppies due to preventable diseases
- To ensure that a racing greyhound's vaccination status meets the requirements for boarding under relevant Codes of Practice, particularly for those greyhounds that are not housed at the owner's property
- To bring the industry into line with other Breeding 'Codes of Practice' and 'Codes of Ethics'

In relation to the **Vaccine Requirement changes:**

5a) Do you believe that the vaccination required for naming a greyhound should be given PRIOR to breaking in?

5b) Should the mandatory vaccines include other diseases?  
*i.e. should the minimum be C7 instead of C5, or should that be decided in discussion with your veterinarian?*

5c) Please provide any other comments relating to the changes in vaccination requirements

## PART D – ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

Please use the area below to provide any other comments or suggestions for the GA Welfare Working Party and the GA Board to consider as they implement the National Greyhound Welfare Strategy: