

Industry Update Newsletter - 14 February 2022

Gavin Goble - General Manager Greyhound Welfare and Re-homing

Vaccinations for greyhounds

The Code of Practice requires all greyhounds to have a current C5 vaccination. Please speak to your veterinarian about when your greyhounds are next due for a vaccination and ensure your Kennel Cough vaccine is up to date. These vaccinations are required to keep the Pink Card active (GRV must have copies of certificates). Vaccination requirements for acceptance into GAP are more specific, so please check with GRV if you are planning to get a vaccination for this purpose. Also see <https://gap.grv.org.au/about-gap/intake-model/> for the requirements. In addition to recording your greyhound's adult vaccinations in its Greyhound Record, please also email your vaccination certificates to welfare@grv.org.au for GRV to upload into FastTrack.

GAP bookings and priority for desexed greyhounds

Some of you will be aware that the GAP booking process now has a longer than usual waiting list. This has recently developed due to increasing demand for slots due to the increased breeding numbers from 2018, a significant decline in late 2021 in adoption applications due to easing of COVID-19 restrictions, and significant impacts of COVID-19 on GAP staffing (including veterinary staff) and therefore slowed throughput of dogs through GAP. The second and third issues have meant we have had to delete slots that have become vacant and have been unable to add additional sessions or slots like we often have done. We are working hard to address these issues.

It is important to note that desexed greyhounds on the waiting list are given priority over un-desexed (entire) greyhounds. However, **FastTrack must have your greyhound recorded as desexed** for the priority system to work so it is worth checking with Racing Services that your greyhound is recorded as desexed:

- when you first book your greyhound on the waiting list; and
- if your greyhound is on the waiting list and you have just had it desexed.

If you have a desexing certificate, please email it to welfare@grv.org.au so we can update FastTrack for you. Please do not assume we have received a certificate from your veterinarian - even if it went through the GRV Desexing and Dental Scheme.

In addition to priority entry, advantages of desexing include:

1. The potential to increase the likelihood of the greyhound passing its assessment; and
2. In the case of females, it avoids the situation of her coming into season at the last minute and not being able to attend the assessment; and
3. Greyhounds arriving at GAP desexed can be adopted quicker (if teeth are in good condition) which ultimately benefits participants by GAP being able to accept more greyhounds more quickly.

GRV's Desexing and Dental Scheme (see <https://greyhoundcare.grv.org.au/rehoming/desexing-and-dental-scheme/>) will cover the entire cost of both desexing and dental treatment in most cases.

Ideally desexing should be done at least 6 weeks prior to PEA to gain the benefits from a behavioural point of view, but if it is not possible to be done that far in advance, it should be a minimum of 2 weeks for a female and 1 week for a male.

In addition to desexing and dental treatment, participants can assist greatly by having their greyhounds as "adoption ready" as possible before PEA, which will also maximise the chances of the greyhound passing the assessment. This includes ensuring greyhounds are used to being around small dogs and other people; and ensuring medical issues (including previous injuries) are resolved.

What do I do if my greyhound is on the waiting list?

1. **Preparation:** You can use the waiting time to further prepare the greyhound for rehoming, including desexing and dental treatment and ongoing handling and socialisation (which will increase the chances of the greyhound passing the assessment).
2. **Alternatives:** You can try contacting other rehoming groups but be aware they also currently have waiting lists and will generally require desexing prior to acceptance.
3. **PetCheck:** From March onwards, GRV will again be offering PetCheck behaviour assessments to greyhounds on the waiting list (very similar to a PEA except GAP will not take the greyhound on the day if it passes). This will be useful to provide some certainty about the greyhound's behaviour and, if you are opting to rehome the greyhound privately, to help you better place the greyhound in the right home. If you would like to have a PetCheck for your greyhound, please ring Carly at GAP on 03 5799 0166 to discuss and book it in. The plan is to offer slots at the end of the PEA sessions. To be eligible, your greyhound will need to be on the PEA waiting list and vaccinated as per the requirements for GAP (to protect the GAP helper dogs).

For more information see <https://gap.grv.org.au/about-gap/intake-model/>.