

Integrity Unit

Greyhound Unmuzzling Criteria



***Tasracing
Integrity Unit***

Tasracing Integrity Unit
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Introduction

The body entrusted with the responsibility to regulate and ensure the highest integrity and welfare standards within the state of Tasmania is the Tasracing Integrity Unit, Department of Tasracing.

In November 2017, the Tasmanian Parliament passed an amendment to the Dog Control Act 2000 proclaiming the Dog Control Amendment Act 2017 **(the Act)**. This Act commenced when it received Royal Assent on 20th December 2017. Amendments to the Act were passed in December 2024 in line with the update to the new Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024.

Clauses 13 & 14 of this legislation outline the responsibilities of Tasracing as follows;

Clause 13. Section 18 substituted

Section 18 of the Principal Act is repealed and the following section is substituted:

18. Effective control of greyhounds

(1) A greyhound is under the effective control of a person if –

(a) the greyhound is –

(i) muzzled; and

(ii) secured and restrained by means of a lead that is not more than 2 metres long held by hand by a person able to control the dog; or

(b) the greyhound is –

(i) muzzled; and

(ii) restricted in or on a vehicle so that it is unable to leave the vehicle or attack any person or animal outside the vehicle; or

(c) while the greyhound is engaged in trialling or showing –

(i) the greyhound is in close proximity to the person; and

(ii) the greyhound is in sight of the person; and

(iii) the person is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of an authorised person that the greyhound is immediately responsive to the person's commands; or

(d) while the greyhound is engaged in greyhound racing, the greyhound is muzzled during a race in which that greyhound is participating.

(2) Subsection (1)(a)(i) and subsection (1)(b)(i) do not apply to a greyhound that has successfully an approved suitability program.

(3) The owner or person in charge of a greyhound must ensure that the greyhound, when not on premises at which the dog is usually kept, is under the effective control of a person.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

(4) A person, at any one time, must not have in his or her charge more than –

(a) 2 greyhounds on a footpath; or

(b) 4 greyhounds in a public place.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 5 penalty units.

(5) In this section –

approved greyhound suitability program means a program approved in accordance with section 18A;

greyhound racing means racing conducted under and in accordance with the Rules of Racing made under section 62 of the Racing Regulation and Integrity Act 2024. Dog Control Amendment Act 2017 Act No. of **s. 14**

Clause 14. Section 18A inserted.

After section 18 of the Principal Act, the following section is inserted in Division 1: 18A. Approval of greyhound suitability program

(1) Tasracing may approve a program in respect of the training and assessment of greyhounds for suitability to be without a muzzle when not on premises at which dog is usually kept.

(2) In deciding whether to approve subsection a program under subsection (1),

Tasracing may seek advice from –

(a) a veterinary surgeon with expertise relating to greyhounds; or

(b) any other person Tasracing sees fit.

(3) Tasracing may refuse to accept a program for approval.

(4) In this section –

Tasracing means Tasracing Pty Ltd formed under section 5 of the *Racing (Tasracing Pty Ltd) Act 2009*..

Criteria

Kennel and Physical Handling

The development of activities and assessment criteria to observe and make records of the greyhound in its kennel environment including physical handling by an assessor unknown to the greyhound. The greyhound must undertake certain tasks in this environment such as being fitted with a collar and lead and physical touching of the greyhound where the greyhound demonstrates satisfactory and/or no signs of aggression or anxiety while being handled.

Leash Manners

The development of activities and assessment criteria to observe and make records of the greyhound whilst on a leash being walked in different environments, such as kennels, yards or in a public place.

Sociability to People

The development of activities and assessment criteria to observe and make records of the greyhound's social interaction with people in differing environments.

Physical Overview

The development of activities and assessment criteria to handle the greyhound conducting a physical assessment of their condition, including but not limited to handling various sensitive areas such as feet, around the mouth to assess the greyhound's acceptance to this activity. This is not a veterinary examination.

Responses

The development of activities and assessment criteria to assess the greyhound's reaction to sudden unexpected loud noises, unusual and mild threatening behaviour.

Prey Drive

The development of activities and assessment criteria to assess the greyhounds prey drive around other small animals, such as small dogs. The activity must ensure the safety of the small animal being used in the assessment.

Resource Guarding

The development of activities and assessment criteria to assess the greyhound's reaction whilst in the possession of a resource, such as a small toy, whether they allow external interaction or removal of that resource without displaying signs of aggression. This activity should incorporate assessment using food items in addition to artificial items such as toys.

All assessment tools should record the greyhound's reaction resulting in a pass, equivocal or fail of the assessment. These assessment tools should outline several indicators allowing the greyhound sufficient opportunity to demonstrate competence.

Assessor Qualifications

An approved program must ensure that all assessors engaged to undertake a greyhound's assessment are suitably qualified.

Records and Obligations

An approved program must keep records of all greyhounds who have undergone assessment, including records relating to each of the assessment criteria and results. The Greyhounds must also be micro-chipped and de-sexed. These records may be subject to annual auditing by the Tasracing Integrity Unit and should contain the Greyhounds microchip number. These records are to be made available upon request by the Tasracing Integrity Unit within a reasonable amount of time upon receiving such a request.

An approved program must provide annual statistics to the Tasracing Integrity Unit within two weeks after the end of a financial year.

Upon successful completion of a program each greyhound will be provided with a unique numbered coloured collar, signifying that it is not required to wear a muzzle in a public place whilst on a leash. The collar should be of a design approved by the Tasracing Integrity Unit that includes a number specific to each greyhound and identifies the approved program.

A representative of an approved program / or owner will ensure that the any necessary notification is made to the appropriate council of a greyhound's successful completion of the program and exemption from muzzling requirements. The program / owner should confirm and adhere to any local council requirements where the greyhound will reside.

Un-muzzling Certification of retired Greyhounds that have not been through an adoption program prior to 30 November 2018

The Tasracing Integrity Unit is aware that many Greyhounds are already out in the community as pets, originating from both within Tasmania and Interstate. It has been noted that considerable stress would be placed on these dogs to re-enter approved rehoming programs for assessment. It is envisaged that the registered owners should provide details of these dogs and make a declaration confirming the Greyhounds suitability to be un-muzzled based on the criteria above. The Chief Racing Integrity Officer will review these submissions and issue a purple collar to those Greyhounds deemed suitable to be un-muzzled on submission of a Statutory Declaration.