

**RÁSAÍOCHT
CON
ÉIREANN**

**GREYHOUND
RACING
IRELAND**



CODE OF PRACTICE

**for the Care and Welfare
of Greyhounds**

November 2021

1. Application

This Code applies to any person who keeps, breeds, rears, trains, races, trades or transports a greyhound.

Greyhound means a dog (including a bitch) entered in the Irish Greyhound Stud Book or the pup of a greyhound dog and bitch so entered.

2. Objectives

This Code of Practice (Code) clearly defines what is expected of all individuals involved in the keeping, breeding, rearing, training, racing, trading and transporting of all greyhounds. The primary objective of the code is to specify the minimum standards for management, breeding, rehoming and general care for greyhounds and those involved are encouraged to adopt the highest standards of care.

The code is not intended as an exhaustive list of greyhound practices, but clearly highlights what level of knowledge and competence is required while caring for greyhounds as well as the various legislative elements associated with animal welfare.

The principal theme of this Code is that the welfare and care of a greyhound must at all times take precedence over the demands of the stakeholders and all those involved in the greyhound industry.

This Code is produced in compliance with the requirements of section 6 of the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011 and emphasises that persons in charge of greyhounds have a legal responsibility to care for the greyhounds in their care. Compliance with the Code, the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011 and all other legislative instruments is mandatory by all participants within the greyhound industry. The Code may be revised from time to time to reflect new knowledge and best practice, such that the welfare of greyhounds is optimised at all times.

3. General Welfare Principles

This Code sets out the minimum standards for all persons involved in the greyhound industry.

This Code supports and promotes the principles set out in the "Five Freedoms" which underpin best welfare practice:

- a. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- b. Freedom from Discomfort - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- c. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- d. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- e. Freedom from Fear and Distress - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

The Owner and/or Keeper is responsible for the welfare, activity and whereabouts of their greyhounds.

The Owner and/or Keeper of the greyhound must both take full responsibility for the physical, social and behavioural wellbeing of the greyhound and shall do so with full regard to its welfare.

Owners and/or Keepers must maintain all records as required by regulatory bodies, Rásaíocht Con Éireann (RCE) / Greyhound Racing Ireland and The Irish Coursing Club (the Club).

All persons involved in sporting activities involving greyhounds must be aware of their responsibilities under all statutory laws and regulations.

All persons involved in the racing industry must avail of any training programmes and supports provided by Rásaíocht Con Éireann (RCE) / Greyhound Racing Ireland to ensure up to date knowledge and ensure best practices are utilised.

All establishments are subject to unannounced inspections by RCE's inspection officers.

Owners and keepers must plan for the whole of a greyhound's life and maximise opportunities for re-homing of their retired greyhounds.

All persons partaking in sporting activities involving greyhounds shall ensure the continued funding of the Irish Retired Greyhound Trust.

4. Responsible Ownership

For the purposes of this code:

The person in charge of caring for the greyhound is referred to as Registered "Owner" or Nominated "Keeper".

All properties that keep greyhounds are referred to as "Establishments"

All those that care for the greyhounds are referred to as "Staff"

Rásíocht Con Éireann (RCE) / Greyhound Racing Ireland is referred to as "RCE"

Irish Coursing Club is referred to as "The Club"

All establishments must have a sufficient number of suitably qualified or experienced persons to care for the greyhounds. There must be sufficient staffing to ensure the greyhounds are maintained to a high standard of welfare and fulfil the requirements of the Code.

Staff must possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of greyhounds in accordance with

The Owner and/or Keeper is responsible for:

- the overall management of the establishment
- the health and welfare of all greyhounds housed at the establishment
- the health and welfare of greyhounds being transported, including ensuring greyhounds are transferred or rehomed to countries with high welfare standards.
- provision of accommodation and equipment appropriate for the physical, behavioural and social requirements of the greyhounds.
- provision of sufficient space for greyhounds to stand in a normal standing position, move around freely, stretch fully by being able to lay out flat, rest and to express normal behaviour patterns.
- provision of sufficient quantities of appropriate food and continuous access to clean, fresh water to support and maintain optimal health.
- ensuring that the greyhound is adequately exercised appropriate for the greyhound's age, anatomy and behavioural patterns.
- ensuring appropriate enrichment and socialisation are provided for the greyhounds to enhance their well-being.
- ensuring that the greyhound is inspected daily regarding its welfare.
- ensuring that reasonable and practical measures are taken to protect the greyhound from disease, distress and injury.
- provision of prompt veterinary care in cases of illness or injury.
- implementation and maintenance of proper hygiene practices to protect the health and welfare of the greyhound.
- ensuring staff in charge of the day to day management of the greyhounds are sufficiently trained to ensure good husbandry methods and ensure they can recognise abnormalities or any signs of ill health of a greyhound.
- acting on any reports from staff on any issues that affect the operation or management of the establishment.
- ensuring that all records are maintained and updated as set out in section 10 of the Code.
- ensuring, if applicable, the premises is appropriately registered under the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011

Owners must provide RCE's registered Welfare Officer with information and assistance and answer such questions as the welfare officer may reasonably require.

Owners should undertake any checks they consider appropriate to ensure that any sale or transfer of a greyhound in their care is to a person(s) whom they are satisfied is in a position to provide the necessary conditions for good health, care and welfare of a greyhound.

Owner/Keeper/Person in charge must ensure that greyhounds are transported in a safe and secure manner, in a way that does not cause injury or stress and in the shortest practicable time.

All persons involved in sporting activities where greyhounds are competing/participating, must avail of any training programmes and supports provided by RCE or the Club to ensure they have an up to date knowledge on welfare and that best practices are utilised.

5. Husbandry Issues

5.1 Housing

Housing must be appropriate for the greyhound's age, anatomy and behavioural patterns.

Kennels must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that ensures the welfare of the greyhounds, prevents the transmission of infectious diseases, prevents escape of greyhounds and prevents injury to either humans or greyhounds.

Kennels must:

- Be separated from each other by a suitable barrier and protect greyhounds from the elements, for example, rain, wind and snow
- Provide adequate shade/protection from the sun
- Provide a sheltered, raised sleeping area
- Be suitable for the greyhounds as regards temperature, humidity, ventilation and security.
- Be located away from sources of noise or pollution that could cause harm or distress to the greyhound
- Be divided by solid partitions, galvanised mesh or chain link wire dividers and must not allow for unsafe contact between greyhounds in adjoining areas.
- Be constructed of an impervious material that facilitates thorough cleaning, disinfection and drainage in order to prevent/control disease.

Each greyhound must be accommodated in secure kennels. Greyhounds can be housed together if compatible and should be closely monitored. If any adverse welfare outcomes occur, greyhounds must be separated.

In each kennel unit, the accommodation area must provide the greyhound with sufficient space to (i) stand at full height, (ii) lie down fully stretched (iii) turn around, walk and wag its tail without touching the sides of the kennel or touching another greyhound.

Sleeping areas must include a raised bed in a draught free area. All greyhounds must have adequate bedding and all soiled material must be removed at least twice daily. The bedding must be of a quantity and quality to prevent pressure sores and the bed must be in good repair. All bedding material in use shall be absorbent, clean, non-irritant and dry.

Kennel must be constructed to avoid pooling of water/urine. Water and urine should not drain across one kennel to the next. Drains must be effective and maintained to prevent blockage and pooling of urine, water or disinfectant. Drains should not pose an injury risk to greyhounds.

Housing areas must be free from sharp objects and all electrical equipment and wiring must be kept out of reach of the greyhounds.

Grassed sections must form part of large outdoor runs but must be adequately maintained and not allowed to deteriorate into bare earth. Sand runs are also acceptable, in particular for winter usage. Outdoor areas must be cleaned of all faeces at least daily and should be cleaned immediately after the removal of a greyhound(s) and before new greyhounds are introduced to the area. Paddocks must be appropriately maintained, including ensuring there is no loose wire or sharp objects which might result in injury to greyhounds. Clean fresh drinking water must be available in paddocks at all times.

A suitable area is required to accommodate a recumbent greyhound, along with a supply of bandages and dressings for provision of first aid treatment as directed by the veterinary practitioner. A recumbent greyhound does not have to be completely isolated from other greyhounds if isolation will cause stress to the greyhound.



The recumbent greyhound should be regularly monitored and if there are any abnormalities observed or concerns for the welfare of the greyhound, further veterinary advice should be immediately sought.

Greyhounds used for breeding must be kept in an environment that allows social contact when the stage of the breeding cycle permits. On those occasions where greyhounds have to be kennelled on their own, the level of social contact must be increased to compensate.

A separate whelping area must be provided for a pregnant greyhound, separate from a group kennel. A pregnant greyhound must be moved to a whelping housing area, which is sufficiently large to allow her to exhibit her natural behaviours and to rest away from the litter.. The whelping area must have a raised bed with soft and absorbent bedding which must be changed frequently.

5.1.1 Isolation Area

All establishments must have an isolation area for greyhounds to be housed that are suspected of having an infectious disease. These isolation areas must be physically separated from the other kennels. Precautions taken to prevent and control the spread of disease must include separate air space and drainage from the main kennel area.

Items used in this isolation area such as bedding, food/water bowls, must remain in this area and be replaced or disinfected after use by each greyhound.

Clean, fresh drinking water must be available in all kennels at all times.

5.2 Environment

Lighting, Ventilation, Temperature, Noise, and Security must be managed to ensure greyhounds' comfort and welfare.

5.2.1 Lighting

Greyhounds must be kept under lighting conditions that reflect as close as possible natural conditions. They must not be kept in permanent darkness and must have access to at least 8 hours lighting per day and have a period of darkness overnight.

Natural daylight is the preferred means of lighting, provided shaded areas are available.

Each kennel must be provided with sufficient natural or artificial light to facilitate proper inspection of all greyhounds in their kennels and to allow animal housing areas to be thoroughly cleaned.

5.2.2 Ventilation

Kennels must have effective ventilation to circulate fresh air, remove noxious odours and aid temperature control. Kennel must be kept dry and free from draught at all times.

5.2.3 Temperature

Greyhounds must be protected from the extremes of temperature. Ideally, there should be an area in the kennel where greyhounds can experience temperatures above 10°C and below 26°C.

It is recommended that the temperature in whelping areas be maintained around 26°C and include an area to allow the dam to move away from heat spots.

Greyhounds must be monitored to check if they are too hot or too cold. If a greyhound is showing signs of heat or cold intolerance, steps need to be taken to ensure their welfare. Greyhounds should be transported in vehicles that are ventilated to avoid any form of heat stress. Equally, trailers used to transport greyhounds during cold/very cold weather should be insulated to prevent any form of 'cold stress'.

Any person transporting greyhounds in non-air conditioned vehicles must be extra vigilant and must be aware of signs of heat stress, for example, increased panting, drooling or staggering.

5.2.4 Noise

Kennels must be constructed away from any loud noise that can cause stress to greyhounds.

Noise from barking greyhounds must be managed to comply with noise regulations.

Puppies under 7 months must be situated in the quietest part of a kennel.

Noise can be minimised by careful planning and techniques including:

- Singly housing greyhounds or housing greyhounds in compatible pairs.

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5.2.5 Security

All greyhound housing areas must be secure with adequate fencing to prevent the escape of greyhounds or the entry of unauthorised people.

Housing areas must have a secure closing device that can only be opened by humans.

All security methods used in the establishment must allow for ready access to greyhounds and exit of greyhounds and staff from the establishment in the event of an emergency. Fire safety equipment must be present with documented fire and evacuation plans in place.

Muzzling: Muzzling must only be used for the shortest practicable time. Muzzling must not cause any pain or distress to the greyhound and must not restrict normal and necessary behaviour e.g panting, drinking. Basket type muzzles which allow panting, drinking and vomiting are recommended

5.3 Exercise

Greyhounds must be provided with an adequate amount of exercise for their overall health and wellbeing.

The amount of exercise for each greyhound must be appropriate for the greyhound's age, anatomy and behavioural patterns.

Dogs must be given the opportunity to exercise outside of their kennel at least once a day. This should be for a minimum total of half an hour while an hour is recommended. This can be off lead in an outdoor area or on lead.

Exercising greyhounds should be supervised by staff.

Greyhounds must be supervised by a staff member if being exercised on treadmills. Treadmills must not be the primary source of exercise for greyhounds unless being used for rehabilitation purposes.

An exercise area must be available to allow the greyhound to:

- urinate and defecate
- exposure to other compatible animals
- sufficiently maintain their health and welfare
- exhibit normal dog behaviour

It is recommended that the area is of a size that allows 10 square metres(approx.) per greyhound exercised.

5.4 Enrichment/ Socialisation

Enrichment and Socialisation, appropriate to their age/stage of development, must be provided for the greyhounds to enhance their well-being, permit them to live in many social environments and to increase their suitability for rehoming.

Basic socialisation and habituation techniques that must be carried out include:

- Handling, socialisation of puppies from an early age
- Physical handling: lead walking, grooming, petting
- Exposure to humans: feeding, cleaning, training, bathing
- Exposure to other animals: other dog breeds, cats etc.
- Exposure to different environmental stimuli: racing equipment, music, odours, food based enrichment, home environment (stairs, Hoover etc)



6. Hygiene and Pest Control

6.1 Hygiene:

Areas that house greyhounds must be kept clean to ensure good welfare of greyhounds, to prevent and to control a disease outbreak.

Kennels and pens used to house greyhounds must be cleaned at least once a day or more often if necessary, by hosing or other appropriate means. Greyhounds must not be present in kennels and pens during cleaning and kennel areas must be left dry after cleaning prior to rehousing the greyhound.

All excreta and soiled material must be removed twice daily and more often if necessary, from all living compartments. In the case of housing puppies, faeces must be removed more frequently, at least 4 times a day.

Cleaning and disinfecting material must be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness. Disinfectants must be used according to manufacturer's instructions. An anti-viral/anti bacterial disinfectant must be used and not phenolics, which can be toxic to greyhounds. Staff must understand how to use disinfectants at the correct dilution rate- if the solution is too dilute, it may be ineffective and if the solution is too concentrated it may be toxic.

While the kennel environment must be regularly and thoroughly cleaned and kept dry, excessive use of disinfectants must be avoided.

Kennels must be disinfected:

- at least once a week
- after an outbreak of an infectious disease
- prior to the arrival of a new greyhound
- prior to whelping

Feeding and water containers must be disinfected and thoroughly rinsed if the greyhound using them is diagnosed with a disease or infection.

All waste products e.g droppings, bedding, must not be a source of nuisance or a public health risk and must be disposed of promptly in accordance with relevant local authority requirements. Food and water containers must be suitable and designed so that they are not easily overturned in kennels and that they are capable of being cleaned and disinfected. They must be kept in a clean and hygienic condition.

Food storage and preparation areas must be kept in a clean and hygienic state. There shall be suitable containers/storage facilities to ensure food is kept fresh.

All areas must have access to hot and cold water for washing utensils and eating and drinking containers.

6.2 Pest Control

An effective and documented programme of pest control must be implemented to control pests including rodents, flies, fleas etc. in the kennels and all associated areas.

Chemicals used for pest control must be duly authorised and used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The food preparation areas must be vermin-free and all bulk food must be stored in vermin-proof containers.

Information on best practice for the control of rodents can be found on a DAFM website- -- <https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/biocides/useofbiocidalproducts/campaignforresponsiblerodenticideuseinireland/>

7. Nutrition

All greyhounds must be fed at least once daily. Food provided must be of sufficient nutritional quality and quantity to meet the greyhound's individual daily requirements and appropriate for the condition, level of activity, age and size of the greyhound.

Pregnant, lactating and convalescing greyhounds will require more food and must be fed multiple times daily to meet the individual greyhound's requirements.

Fully weaned puppies less than sixteen weeks must be fed at least three times daily with an age appropriate diet. Staff with orphaned or pre-weaned puppies must have a feeding plan in place that ensures nutritional requirements are being met.

Greyhounds that are between the ages of four and six months must be fed at least twice daily with an age appropriate, nutritionally balanced diet. There must be a supply of food on site to ensure food is available in case of an emergency such as illness, accident or weather conditions.

Feed intake must be monitored daily. Advice should be sought from a veterinary surgeon if an unexplained increase or loss of appetite persists. If greyhounds are in-appetent for more than 24 hours, they should be monitored and if there is concern(s) veterinary advice sought.

Fresh and clean drinking water must be available at all times in sufficient volumes.

Meat feeding

Any owner or keeper of greyhounds, wanting to feed Category 2 Animal By-Product meat (ABP) (meat from a Licensed Knackery) or Category 3 Animal By-product (ABP) (meat purchased from a slaughter plant or a Local Authority Abattoir) shall apply to the Dept of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM) to be authorised as a feeder.

When authorised, that person may only source/purchase ABP meat from a 'collection centre/knackery' or 'slaughter plant' approved by DAFM. This meat will have been appropriately stained to indicate 'it is not fit for human consumption'. A person handling this raw meat in a greyhound establishment should wear gloves and wash hands thoroughly after handling to minimise any risk of acquiring an infection from pathogenic organisms that may be present in Category 2 meat.

The greyhound owner/keeper must maintain an accurate record of where meat was purchased, the quantities purchased, fed and/or not used, to demonstrate the authenticity of the source and the traceability of its use.

Meat must be kept in a fridge/freezer.

8. Healthcare

8.1 Vaccinations and Parasite Control

A suitable animal health programme agreed with the veterinary practitioner will be required including vaccination programmes and a control programme for endoparasites (worms) and ectoparasites (fleas, mange) etc.

On reaching 12 weeks of age, all puppies must be microchipped and must have received up to date vaccinations, in accordance with veterinary advice, against:

- Distemper, viral hepatitis, leptospirosis, canine parvovirus and 'Kennel cough'

They must also be treated for:

- internal and external parasites e.g worms, fleas, ticks

Booster vaccination to protect against the major diseases must be done annually or in accordance with the advice provided by your veterinary practitioner. A parasite control programme must be in place to ensure that all greyhounds are regularly treated for endo and ectoparasites.

As stated in section (11) Rehoming, prior to rehoming, greyhounds must be presented to a veterinary practitioner to ensure compliance with the required standards of vaccinations, ectoparasite and endoparasite treatment as part of their rehoming procedure.

Medications

Medications must be purchased from a reputable source & 'Prescription only medicines' (e.g. vaccines, some wormers, painkillers, antibiotics) shall only be purchased on foot of a prescription from your veterinary practitioner, pharmacist or licensed seller.

All veterinary medication must be clearly labelled, stored in a secure cabinet and only used for the animal prescribed.

Owners and Keepers must record and maintain a Veterinary Treatment Log book for all animal remedies or veterinary treatments administered to greyhounds, to include routine worm/flea treatments and all vaccinations.

Unused/out of date medications, soiled dressings, syringes and needles must be properly disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation and not in commercial waste. (Seek the advice of your veterinary practitioner).

8.2 Health Checks

Owners and/or Keepers must ensure each greyhound is checked at least once daily to monitor its health and comfort. Owners or Keepers must regularly check the condition of greyhounds to ensure they are eating and drinking normally, are able to defecate and urinate normally, are able to move around without pain and that their skin, teeth, coat and nails are in a normal and healthy condition.

All greyhounds must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner at least once a year or as directed by the veterinary practitioner. **This must include a dental health check.**

Greyhounds must be provided with hard chews, bones etc. to ensure good dental health. Immediate veterinary care must be provided for sick or injured greyhounds to relieve pain, suffering or distress.

Veterinary attention must be sought if greyhounds are showing any signs of ill health including but not limited to the following:

- repeated sneezing or abnormal coughing
- runny, inflamed or discharging eyes
- lethargy and change of behaviour
- lameness or inability to stand or walk
- bleeding or swelling of body parts
- vomiting or severe diarrhoea (especially if bloodstained)
- weight loss or lack of appetite
- fits or staggering
- inability to urinate or defecate
- unusual or sufficient hair loss
- repeated shaking or scratching of the head
- moderate gum inflammation with bleeding, with plaque build up on teeth
- any abnormalities that raise concern



Each establishment must have a designated veterinary practitioner that they can liaise with to provide advice and treatment if necessary. The veterinary practitioner must be able to attend to any greyhound in the establishment at any time including out of hours and weekend cover. The Veterinary practice and emergency contact details should be clearly displayed in the kennel area.

Any supplements or treatments must be clearly labelled and kept in their original packaging. They must be stored according to the manufacturer's recommendations, easily identified and be given in accordance with the manufacturer's direction.

The keeper of greyhounds is responsible for ensuring that all greyhounds in their care are not accidentally or purposely given or exposed to any substance that is prohibited.

8.2.1 Dental Care

Poor dental health can be a significant problem in greyhounds, in particular as they reach retiring age. Poor dental health can cause pain, bacterial gum infections and this can impact the general health and racing performance of a greyhound. Teeth and gum infections left untreated can lead to heart, liver and kidney infections.

Owner/Keepers need to regularly check their greyhound's teeth and ensure diet and husbandary practices support good dental health.

If your greyhound is amenable to brushing of teeth with canine dental brush and paste, this could help prevent tartar build up.

Providing the greyhound with hardchews can assist in maintaining healthy teeth and gums.

Tartar: This results from residues of food particles lodging between the teeth and over time when combined with some bacteria solidifies to form a plaque (calculus). This can then progress to an inflammation of the gums (gingivitis). Where there are signs of moderate gum inflammation then seek veterinary attention. Infection of the gums can progress into the bony structures that support the teeth. This is known as periodontal disease and will always require more immediate intervention and treatment by a veterinarian.

See Appendix: Dental care of the Greyhound.(pictogram of the Grades of Dental Health)

9. Breeding

Breeding a greyhound needs to be an informed decision and planned so that greyhounds are bred in a responsible and safe manner, resulting in good welfare of both dogs and puppies.

Breeding practices must ensure that breeding greyhounds are not closely related and the offspring produced are both physically and behaviourally sound and given the best chance of a healthy life as possible.

Breeders / Stud Keepers must ensure that appropriate welfare is afforded to the Dam and Sire.

Any greyhound that is found to have a heritable defect must not be bred from.

A female greyhound has to be at least 15 months before being mated, inseminated or otherwise used for breeding purposes. A person may permit a greyhound bitch to have up to 6 litters during her lifetime and may permit her to have two further litters only (7th and 8th litters) provided that a veterinary certificate is obtained prior to mating the bitch stating that the pregnancy and birth do not present a risk to the health or welfare of the bitch. This veterinary certificate must be lodged with the Irish Coursing Club prior to mating.

Females in season must be separated from males when breeding is not planned.

Natural mating pairs must be physically isolated from other greyhounds and must be monitored. Dog breeding stands must not be used in mating.

During the latter stages of her pregnancy, breeding females must be moved to a whelping area away from the general population and must be provided with additional food and water.

Veterinary advice must be sought if any abnormalities or concerns arise for either the mother or puppies. After delivery, the mother and puppies must be closely monitored and both puppies and mother must be given a health check by the breeder/keeper.

Within 24 hours, the bedding must be changed and birthing area must be cleaned and disinfected. Lactating greyhounds must be provided with extra care, food and attention. If any abnormalities or concerns arise, veterinary advice must be sought.

Puppies must be monitored to ensure they are feeding and gaining weight; if no weight gain is evident, veterinary advice must be sought.

Puppies under the age of 8 weeks must not be permanently separated from their mother unless advised otherwise by veterinary practitioner.

10. Record Keeping

Registered Owners must be able to account for and know the whereabouts of all greyhounds registered in their name. Under the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011, the owner must notify the Club in writing of the:

- **Transfer or Sale of any greyhound:** along with the name and address of the person to whom the greyhound was sold. A person to whom a greyhound is sold or transferred shall also, within 14 days of the sale or transfer, give notice in writing to the ICC of the fact.
- **Death of a greyhound:** Owner must give notice in writing to the ICC of the date of death of their greyhound within 14 days

Failure to do so is an offence under the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011.

Licences: Any person involved in the greyhound industry must ensure that they have the suitable and valid licences for their role e.g dog licence, public/private trainers licence etc.

Meat Feeder Authorisation: Any owner or keeper feeding Category 2 or 3 ABP meat must keep an accurate record to ensure traceability and suitability of meat. Any person wishing to feed Category 2 or Category 3 ABP meat must have a Meat Feeder Licence authorised by the Department of Agriculture.

Medicines: Owners and Keepers must record and maintain an up to date Veterinary Treatment Log book to keep an accurate record for all animal remedies and Veterinary Treatments administered.



11. Rehoming

The overriding theme of this Code is that owners must plan for the whole of a greyhound's life.

When a greyhound is no longer suitable for sporting activities or breeding and the owner is unable to retain the greyhound, the owner must make all reasonable efforts to rehome that greyhound. All healthy adult greyhounds and puppies that are physically healthy and suitable for rehoming, must be given the opportunity to spend the rest of their lives as a pet.

Retirement and rehoming may occur at any stage during the greyhound's life, from puppy to adult greyhound. Each dog will have different needs to be met, to successfully prepare them for their new home.

To maximise the suitability of a greyhound as a pet, greyhounds must be sufficiently socialised as outlined in section (5.4) Enrichment.

Retired greyhounds must:

- Be rehomed to a suitable home
- Have their details given to Irish Retired Greyhound Trust who will actively seek a suitable home
- Be rehomed through a reputable rehoming organisation or private party or
- Be retained by the owner as a pet



Unless the greyhound is retained by the owner as a pet, all greyhounds should have all rehoming procedures completed by a veterinary practitioner including Neutering/Spaying, 7 in 1 vaccination, vaccination for kennel cough and a full dental assessment.

To qualify for rehoming outside of Ireland, greyhounds must have received a Rabies vaccination and the owner must possess the appropriate Pet Passport.

- Owners must be confident that if they are directly transferring or rehoming their greyhound, they are satisfied that the home of the adopter will provide a suitable environment that ensures ongoing high canine welfare standards.
- If transferring a greyhound abroad, the owners must ensure that the greyhound is travelling to an area with high welfare standards.

Rásíocht Con Éireann is opposed to exports to countries that do not meet Ireland's welfare standards.

Rásíocht Con Éireann emphasises to owners their responsibilities in exporting to any destination and the necessity to ensure that the receiving destination provides the expected levels of greyhound welfare set out in this Code of Practice on the Care and Welfare of the Greyhound, Welfare of Greyhound Act 2011 and Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013.

Where any transferred greyhounds are deemed at risk and suitable checks were not carried out by owners, RCE will investigate the matter and impose any sanctions and penalties considered appropriate.

The Irish Coursing Club must be notified of the transfer of ownership by the old and new owner to ensure traceability and accurate records. Failure to do so is an offence under the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011.

12. Euthanasia

Euthanasia must only be performed humanely by a registered veterinary practitioner except it is performed *'by or on behalf of an owner of a greyhound that is injured, if the killing is to prevent unnecessary, avoidable or excessive suffering to the animal'*

The owner must obtain a death certificate appropriately stamped and signed by the registered veterinary practitioner and send it to Welfare Department of the RCÉ

If necessary, euthanasia must be performed in a location that is separate from any greyhound housing area and must not be performed in the view of any other greyhounds or the general public.

Euthanasia must only be performed if:

- The greyhound is in pain or suffering and is unlikely to make a recovery.
- The greyhound has behavioural and temperament issues that deemed the greyhound as being unsuitable for rehoming.

13. Consequences of a Breach of this Code

A person who contravenes the requirements of this Code, which results in a breach of statutory Welfare requirements may be issued with a Welfare and/or Fixed Payment Notice and/or be subject to prosecution under the Welfare of Greyhound Act 2011.

GUIDE TO ASSESSING/SCORING GREYHOUND DENTAL HEALTH

GRADE 0



A healthy mouth with pink gums

These teeth are healthy ---a young dog. Good dental hygiene through a dog's life helps to maintain this standard.

GRADE 1



Gums are healthy but tartar (calculus) is accumulating on the teeth.

This condition is easily dealt with by cleaning /scaling. Consult your veterinarian. Providing bones or hard chews regularly will also remove some tartar and limit future build up.

GRADE 2



Note some inflammation along the 'gum line', and build up of tartar on teeth.

There is a level of bacterial infection leading to bad breath. Consult your veterinarian as cleaning under a general anaesthetic may be the best option.

GRADE 3



More severe inflammation and recession of the gums.

There is a greater level of bacterial infection in the mouth/gums. Veterinary intervention is required to prevent the infection becoming systemic i.e. affecting liver or kidneys.

GRADE 4



More severe damage to the gums, gums receded . Teeth are loosening and tartar build up is significant.

Veterinary intervention is required to assess the dental health and probably advise re extracting some teeth, scaling the remainder and aggressive treatment with antibacterial medicines. All this is necessary to eliminate any dental pain and minimise the risk of other complications like liver, kidney and/or heart disease.

THIS RUNS DEEP

GREYHOUND CARELINE

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