AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Revised Definition: DNA identity profiling

Summary:

In 1993, the ANZGRA determined that all registered breeding greyhounds (sires and dams) would be required to undergo DNA analysis, to be entered into the Australian and New Zealand Stud Book.

At that time, the most suitable nomenclature for this process was *DNA fingerprint analysis*.

Contemporary scientific language has evolved, and the use of the phrase '*fingerprint*' is no longer deemed appropriate. The proposed amendment would replace *DNA fingerprint analysis* with *DNA identity profiling* and an updated definition reflecting modern processes.

The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

Draft Definition: DNA identity profiling

DNA identity profiling: means the process used by an approved *DNA laboratory* for the purpose of identifying and ascertaining the identity, biographical heritage or pedigree of a *greyhound* from a *DNA sample*

Date of effect: 1 November 2025

NEW RULE TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

New Rule GAR 30A Prohibited Practices

Summary:

In January 2024, after extensive discussions, the Veterinary & Analysts Committee (VAC), proposed a new national rule, listing those prohibited practices not accepted in the industry and restricted practices that are only allowed to be performed by a veterinarian.

The extensive and varied subject matter of the proposed rule determined that the rule be divided into two categories. This resulted in two separate rules being drafted, these being: **GAR 30A Prohibited Practices** & **GAR 30B Restricted Practices.**

Several practices mentioned within the draft rule are currently enforceable via state legislation or local rules. The proposed rule ensures the relevant practices are consistently approached across all jurisdictions and also align to relevant local legislation or regulation, depending on the state or territory where the greyhound is domiciled.

The inclusion within the National Rules will enable jurisdictions to approach any potential breach with expedience and consistency, ensuring best animal welfare outcomes are achieved.

Prohibited practices include:

a. Anything prohibited or restricted by relevant legislation or regulation, depending on the state or territory where the greyhound is domiciled**.**

b. **Ear cropping** - a surgical procedure that removes part or all of the external flaps of a dog's ear to allow them to stand erect.

c. Debarking - a surgical procedure performed to primarily reduce the noise of a dog's bark.

d. Electric stimulus/shock devices - such as anti-barking collars or other device utilised for behaviour modification, by delivering an electric stimulus or shock that can alter the behaviour of a dog.

e. T**hermocautery (firing)** is the technique of using heat to destroy, remove or scar tissue. This can be done by using heated metal instruments, an electrocautery unit, or a surgical laser. Freeze firing uses liquid nitrogen to cause a freeze burn.

f. Blistering is the process of applying caustic solutions to the skin over bones and joints. It is a painful technique, similar in its mode of action to firing

g. Limb neurectomy/permanent limb desensitisation are surgical procedures or treatment performed to mask injury.

h. Racing of pregnant or serviced females This has been added as a prohibited practice to ensure that breeding females are not raced when pregnant or within 28 days of being serviced.

The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

Draft Rule: **GAR 30A Prohibited Practice**

30A Prohibited Practices

(1) An offence is committed if a person does, attempts to do, or causes to be done, any of the following acts including any such act to a *greyhound*:

(a) any act specifically prohibited or restricted by relevant legislation or regulation directed at the prevention of cruelty to animals in the jurisdiction the *greyhound* is domiciled.
(b) crop the ears of a *greyhound*.
(c) operate upon a *greyhound* for the purpose of preventing it from being able to bark.
(d) possess or use an electronic apparatus or other device, including an anti-bark or remote training collar, designed to deliver an electric stimulus or shock that can alter the behaviour of a *greyhound*.
(e) perform thermocautery (firing) to cause, or that is likely to cause, thermal damage to tissue to treat lameness or other musculoskeletal injury or a counter-irritant effect.
(f) administers any substance to cause, or that is likely to cause, vesiculation or other irritating or inflammatory reaction, of the skin and underlying tissues (blistering).
(g) perform a limb neurectomy or any artificial form of permanent limb desensitisation.
(h) allow a female *greyhound* to compete in an *Event* or *trial*:
i. if she is, or is suspected to be, pregnant; or
ii. within 28 days of a service.

(2) Where a *greyhound* is, or is reasonably suspected to have been, subjected to any practice referred to in subrule (1), the *Controlling Body* or *Stewards* may:

(a) refuse the naming of the *greyhound*;
(b) prohibit the *greyhound* from *nominating* for any *Event*;
(c) order the *greyhound* be *scratched* from any *Event*;
(d) disqualify the *greyhound* from any *Event*;
(e) prohibit a *greyhound* from being registered as a *sire* or a *breeding female*;
(f) refuse or cancel the registration of a *litter*;
(g) cancel the registration of the *greyhound*.

(3) A person who breaches subrule (1) of this rule may be penalised.

Date of effect: 1 November 2025

NEW RULE TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

New Rule GAR 30B Restricted Practice

Summary:

In January 2024, after extensive discussions, the Veterinary & Analysts Committee (VAC), presented a potential National Rule, providing considering to Prohibited Industry Practices.

The extensive and varied subject matter of this consideration dictated the rule be divided into two categories. This resulted in two separate rules being drafted. These being: ***GAR 30A Prohibited Practices & GAR 30B Restricted Practices.***

The proposed rule includes any practice restricted, by relevant regulation (veterinary regulation or local rules) to Veterinarians only, depending on the state or territory where the greyhound is domiciled. These are captured to ensure alignment with the relevant practices are consistently approached across all jurisdictions.

Several of the practices mentioned within the draft rule are also currently enforceable via legislation, classified *as 'acts of veterinary science*'.

The inclusion within in the National Rules will enable jurisdictions to approach any potential breach of the rule, with expedience and consistency, ensuring best animal welfare outcomes are achieved.

Restricted practices include:

a. **Anything restricted by relevant legislation or regulation to only be performed by a veterinarian, depending on the state or territory**.

b. **Any surgical procedure.**

c. Tail docking.

d. **One-sided castration (hemi-castration)**.

e. **Use of sclerosing agents.**

f. **Intra-articular injections**

g. **Introduction of any object into a joint of a greyhound.**

h. **Shockwave therapy**.

i. **Limb desensitization.**

j. **Transcervical artificial insemination**.

k. **Euthanasia of a greyhound.**

l. **Tattooing**.

The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

Draft Rule: **GAR 30B Restricted Practice**

30B Restricted Practices

(1) An *offence* is committed if a person, who is not a *veterinarian*, does, attempts to do, or causes to be done, any of the following acts including any such act to a *greyhound*:

(a) any act that is restricted by relevant legislation or regulation to only be performed by a *veterinarian* in the jurisdiction the *greyhound* is domiciled.

(b) any surgical procedure unless performed by a *veterinarian*.

(c) dock the tail of a *greyhound* unless performed by a *veterinarian* for a genuine therapeutic need in that *greyhound*.

(d) operate upon a male *greyhound* and remove only one testicle unless a certificate from a veterinarian of such procedure is provided to the *Controlling Body* within 10 days.

(e) administers a sclerosing agent unless administered by a *veterinarian* for a genuine therapeutic need in that *greyhound*.

(f) administers an intra-articular injection unless administered by a *veterinarian*. A *greyhound* must not compete in an *Event* for at least eight clear days from midnight on the day of that administration.

(g) introduce any object (including a needle) into an intra-articular space, unless performed by a *veterinarian*.

(h) perform shockwave therapy on a *greyhound* unless performed by a *veterinarian*. A *greyhound* must not compete in an *Event* for at least seven clear days from midnight on the day of that treatment.

(i) perform any artificial form of temporary limb desensitisation unless performed by a *veterinarian*. A *greyhound* must not compete in an *Event* for at least seven clear days from midnight on the day of that treatment and until normal limb function has returned.

(j) perform transcervical artificial insemination in a *breeding female*, unless performed by a *veterinarian* at an *approved facility*.

(k) any *euthanasia* of a *greyhound* unless performed by an overdose of barbiturate administered by a *veterinarian*, except if emergency *euthanasia* is required, which must only be done by an appropriate person under the direction of a *veterinarian*.

(l) apply *an ear tattoo* or other tattoo to a greyhound unless performed under anaesthesia by a *veterinarian*.

[Note: For the purposes of this rule, a *veterinarian* may include a person undergoing training to be a *veterinarian* who is under the immediate and direct supervision of a *veterinarian*.]

[Note: Where a *prohibited substance* is administered, the required minimum number of clear days observed prior to competing in an *Event* may be more.]

(2) Where a *greyhound* is, or is reasonably suspected to have been, subjected to any practice referred to in subrule (1), the *Controlling Body* or *Stewards* may:

(a) refuse the naming of the *greyhound*;
(b) prohibit the *greyhound* from nominating for any *Event*;
(c) order the *greyhound* be scratched from any *Event*;

(d) disqualify the *greyhound* from any *Event*;
(e) prohibit a *greyhound* from being registered as a *sire* or *a breeding female*;
(f) refuse or cancel the registration of a *litter*;
(g) cancel the registration of the *greyhound*.

(3) A person who breaches subrule (1) of this rule may be penalised.

Date of effect: 1 November 2025

AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Rule Amendment GAR 39 Limits on frequency of racing or trialing

Summary:

At present jurisdictions are taking a more proactive approach to monitor the racing frequency of a greyhound.

The current GA rule restricts a Greyhound from competing in an event or satisfactory trial within consecutive days, with the exception of those greyhounds competing within a coursing event.

It is suggested that consideration be given to adopting a nationally consistent Rule that better reflects local rules, currently in existence within individual Jurisdictions. These existing rules, prohibit 3 or more starts in 7 days AND 8 or more starts in 28 days.

The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

Draft Rule: **GAR 39 Limits on frequency of racing or trialling**

39 Limits on frequency of racing or trialling

(1) A *greyhound* is not eligible to compete in more than:

(a) one *Event* or *satisfactory trial* in any consecutive two-day period; and

(b) a combined total of two *Events* or *satisfactory trials* in any consecutive seven-day period; and

(c) a combined total of seven *Events* or *satisfactory trials* in any consecutive 28-day period.

(2) For the purposes of subrule (1), participating in any courses on the same *day* at a *coursing meeting* conducted over one *day* is considered to be one *Event*.

Date of effect: 1 November 2025

AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Rule Amendment GAR 67 Breeding unit of semen collection and registration

Summary:
Contemporary best practice in the freezing of semen is for the semen to be frozen in a pelletized form and contained within a labelled phial (vial). Historically, alternate methodology included the use of straws or canes for the storage of frozen semen.

The GA rules do not indicate that canes/straws aren't accepted for the modern collection of frozen semen, and the majority of greyhound practitioners already use phials over straws.

To ensure the use and labelling of phials is captured within the rules, GA proposes the amendment to GAR 67(3)(b) to stipulate the use of phials in the collection and registration of semen.

The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

Draft Rule: **GAR 67 Breeding unit of semen collection and registration**

(1) *Breeding units of semen* may only be collected from sires as defined by the Rules. (2) Collection of an ejaculate for the purposes of artificial insemination must:

(a) at all times be conducted by an Artificial Insemination Technician; and

(b) unless registered as a *breeding unit of semen* in accordance with this rule, the complete ejaculate must be used in the service of the breeding female.

(3) Prior to the collection and freezing of semen from a sire, the Artificial Insemination Technician must:

(a) obtain from Greyhounds Australasia the relevant *breeding unit of semen* identification number;

(b) identify each *breeding unit of semen*, including inscribing the name of the sire and breeding unit identification number on each phial of semen, and

(c) register with Greyhounds Australasia the storage location of each *breeding unit of semen*.

Date of effect: 1 November 2025

AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Rule Amendment GAR 135 Restriction on racing if unraced for more than six months

Summary:

The contemporary Greyhounds Australasia (GA) Rules were formally adopted in May 2022. GAR 135 relates to the satisfactory return to racing for a greyhound that has been absent from the track for more than six months. The current rule implies that the conditions of the rule do not relate to unraced greyhounds, though it does not state this.

The proposed amendments provide clarification that the conditions of GAR 135 are exempt for unraced greyhounds.

The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

Draft Rule:

GAR 135 Restriction on racing if unraced for more than six months

A *greyhound* which has not competed in an *Event* for greater than six months, excluding a *greyhound* that has never competed in an *Event*, cannot be *nominated for* an *Event* until:

(a) it passes an approved examination conducted by a *veterinarian*; and

(b) it completes a *satisfactory trial* pursuant to rule 132.

[Note: The return of a *greyhound* from retirement is dealt with in subrule 22(5)]

Date of effect: 1 November 2025

AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Rule Amendment GAR 138 Meaning of exempted substance

Summary:

The introduction of changes to the exempted substances can only be proposed for introduction into the GA rules, once an extensive process has been undertaken that requires consultation with specialist groups, research, and risk analysis to ensure that both the welfare of greyhounds and the integrity of the sport are maintained.

Following a submission from GWIC, the addition of orally *administered* glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate, to GAR 138 meaning of exempted substances, was reviewed by VAC and following consultative assessments, subsequently supported by the GA Rules Forum.

The proposed addition to GAR 138 would exempt the use of orally *administered* glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate.

The GA Board has approved the following draft rules for consultation by the Controlling Bodies:

Draft Rule:

GAR 138 Meaning of exempted substance

An *exempted substance* includes the following substances:

(a) ethyloestrenol, norethisterone, ethinylestradiol or levonorgestrel when administered orally to a female *greyhound* and where it has been prescribed by a *veterinarian* for the sole purpose of regulating or preventing oestrus in a female *greyhound*.
(b) antimicrobials (antibiotics) and other anti-infective agents with the exception of procaine penicillin.
(c) antiparasitics approved and registered for the use on canines, with the exception of levamisole and its metabolites when detected in a *sample* taken from a *greyhound*.
(d) vaccines against infectious agents.
(e) cyclosporin, tacrolimus, oclacitinib or lokivetmab when *administered* to a *greyhound* as an immunomodifier and where it has been prescribed by a *veterinarian* for the sole purpose of treating or preventing a chronic condition in a *greyhound* including superficial chronic keratitis (pannus) or allergic/atopic dermatitis.
(f) orally *administered* glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate.

Date of effect: 1 November 2025

AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Draft Amendment GAR 139 (4) Permanently banned prohibited substances, and certain offences in relation to them

Summary:

Currently, in the detection and regulation of prohibited substances, approved racing analytical laboratories may utilise several sampling mediums (matrix) for the purpose of testing. The matrices include individual samples of blood, urine and hair.

The detection of prohibited substances within each of the sample matrices is subject to unique excretion timeframes. The GARs currently do not provide any guidance as to the sample matrix required for the clearance to race by a controlling body or stewards.

The proposed amendment ensures that a clearance to compete cannot be provided until a sample of the same matrix is analysed and approved. The amendment also provides for additional samples to be ordered by stewards and tested against a different matrix.

Draft Rule: **GAR 139 Permanently banned prohibited substances, and certain offences in relation to them**

….

(4) If upon analysis a *sample* has detected in it a permanently banned *prohibited substance* or a *sample* is unable to be taken when required by a *Controlling Body* or the *Stewards* due to the actions or inactions of a person responsible for the *greyhound*, then:

(a) the *greyhound* must be scratched from any *Event* which it is nominated for or engaged to compete in; and

(b) without limiting the application of rule 169(5), the *greyhound* is ineligible to be *nominated for* any further *Event* until a subsequent *sample*, of the same matrix type as the *sample* where the *permanently banned prohibited substance* was detected, is taken and analysed by an *approved laboratory* and does not breach this rule. The *Stewards* may direct that analysis, by an *approved laboratory*, of an additional *sample* or *samples* of a different matrix, that does not breach this rule, is also required

Date of effect: 1 November 2025