

GRV Animal Welfare Initiatives: Breeding

GRV has many initiatives in place to encourage the careful breeding of greyhounds and attempt to maximise the number of greyhounds bred that will go on to race. GRV acknowledge that breeding is a complex science and is working at all levels to ensure industry participants have access to as much information as possible so they can make informed decisions about breeding. At all steps GRV enforces compliance in regards to reporting, and registration, starting at the time of conception.

Some of GRV's breeding strategies include:

- Increased registration costs for Stud Dogs – aimed at deterring 'non-commercial' sires
- Heavy fines for failure to lodge, or late lodgement of Registration of Service (Form C) – to ensure we are aware of all matings that occur
- Monthly monitoring of 'Results of Mating' – to ensure all services have an outcome recorded
- Monthly monitoring of 'Litter Registration' requirements – to ensure all pups born go on to be registered
- There has been significant reduction in the numbers of greyhounds born due to the focus on responsible breeding. In 2004, 1377 litters were whelped in Victoria with 8287 pups. In 2013, the number of litters whelped in Victoria was 939 (reduction of 32%) with 5974 pups registered (reduction of 28%)
- Un-named greyhound transfers – ensuring that we have an 'Owner' assigned to every greyhound throughout its life not just when it is a racing greyhound– the owner is the person responsible for that greyhound and responsible for decisions made about the greyhound's care
- Mandatory Vaccination requirements – to ensure a minimum standard of disease protection for the industry – compulsory vaccine at the time of litter registration and again at naming
- Mandatory micro-chipping – to improve traceability and integrity. All pups whelped after 1st January, 2011 have been micro-chipped. Micro-chipping for greyhounds is heavily subsidised by GRV & GA. GRV also decided to offer FREE micro-chipping for adult greyhounds during a six month period in the latter half of 2011 and has made it a requirement that ALL race dogs trained in Victoria must be micro-chipped to race. *GRV is a Registered Domestic Animal Registry under the Domestic Animals Act.*
- Mandatory DNA testing of all breeding animals – to ensure integrity of breeding stock
- Information about breeding freely available – information about the reality and costs involved in breeding a litter, importance of good rearing, and that having more dogs does not increase the likelihood of success
- Mandatory Breeder's Competency requirement for all new breeders – competency includes information about selecting a Sire and Dam, the Mechanics of mating, and how to Whelp and Raise a litter etc.
- Annual Breeder's Efficiency Review – all breeders whelping more than one litter a year over a five year period assessed on their success and ranked. Poorly performing breeders identified and asked to review their procedures.

- Monitoring of breeding of new bitches – where a bitch has her first two litters in close succession, the breeder is contacted in writing and asked to postpone breeding their bitch for a third time until her first litter reach an age where their ability can be assessed, and decisions regarding her likely success as a brood bitch can be made. Those breeders who breach this request are asked to provide a written explanation of their reasons for doing so. Monitored Quarterly, with very few breeders deciding to breed the bitch for the third time without waiting.
- Compulsory retirement reporting – monitored monthly, with requests sent to owners of greyhounds that have not raced in the last 6 months. Where an owner has decided to have a greyhound euthanised they are required to submit a Veterinarian's certificate, and asked to give a reason for their decision
- The National Greyhound Welfare Strategy has a number of additional initiatives relating to breeding due for commencement July 1 2015 including increased vaccination requirement, a formal breeding female registration and age restrictions for breeding females.