

GRV Animal Welfare Initiatives: Education and Research

GRV strongly believes that ongoing education of industry participants plays a vital part in improving animal welfare standards across all levels of participation. Paired with ongoing research into areas that directly impact the welfare of greyhounds, GRV works closely with Government, Peak Bodies, and Welfare groups to continually improve its knowledge and ensure decisions are based on a strong scientific basis, and that our participants are provided with abundant information so they can make better choices at all stages of the greyhound's lifecycle.

Some examples include:

- Ongoing research into testing and effects of a variety of medications in the racing greyhound.
- Ongoing research into other elements relating to greyhound health and welfare – Dr Linda Beer's 'Risk factors for Injury study', Steve Karamatic's 'Post-Exercise Distress Syndrome' study, Dr Ray Ferguson's studies into treatments for bitches with post-oestrus lactation, and prevalence of Pannus in the racing population, etc.
- Expansion of the ability to compiling and monitoring of Injury Statistics
- Expansion of the ability to compile and monitor of Breeding Statistics
- Ongoing strong relationship with, and input from, the Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association
- Wide consultation from both inside and outside the industry, with the Responsible Breeding Taskforce (2006-2007) and now Animal Welfare Task Force (2012-) convened to develop new strategies to further improve animal welfare industry-wide, along with prioritising of initiatives.
- Animal Welfare initiatives built into the new GRV operating system – FastTrack – from the early development stages
- Ongoing education opportunities for all participants including quarterly articles in GRV-Q (previously monthly in the 'The Advisor'), seminars, and online information via the GRV website
- Development of National Standards of education for all licence types as part of the National Greyhound Welfare Strategy.
- Mandatory completion of the GRV Trainer's Competency prior to licensing - requirements include successful completion of an education package, attendance at an information seminar, Kennel Inspection, and Practical Assessment prior to being granted a trainer's licence.
- Wide promotion of the Government gazetted 'Code of Practice for Greyhound Establishments' including the provision of a hard copy to all new trainers and highlighting of the Code's requirements via various forums.
- Regular liaison with both local and state governments departments
- Regular liaison with RSPCA and other Shelters
- Promotion of ongoing education of GRV staff