

GRV Animal Welfare Initiatives: Enforcement

GRV takes its regulatory role very seriously, with significant resources spent on investigations, enforcement and compliance. The GRV Integrity Department includes full-time, part-time and casual staff that all work together to ensure the rules of racing are upheld, and any breaches are investigated and where required, an inquiry held. Working above the GRV Integrity department is the independent Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board (RADB) that hear cases of a serious nature (which includes ANY matters relating to animal welfare), and appeals against the decisions of the stewards.

Note: If you have details of a specific case that you feel would be a breach of the rules we strongly encourage you to immediately contact the GRV Stewards Department so that they can investigate the matter.

- GRV Stewards and Animal Welfare Compliance Officers conduct both random and targeted Kennel Inspections for all registered Trainers – inspections are mostly un-announced with trainers required, under the rules, to allow Stewards access to inspect both their kennels and their greyhounds along with their records. More than 3500 inspections conducted annually.
- GRV Stewards collects urine, blood and saliva samples from greyhounds via Pre-Race swabs, Post-Race swabs as well as Out of Competition Testing for permanently banned substances. This means the stewards have the ability to request a sample from any greyhound at any time – not just at the race track.
- The number of swabs taken has increased year on year, and 5050 samples will be taken in FY15. This is a 130% increase on FY08.
- Less than 0.8% of all swabs return a positive result, and that % is decreasing.
- GRV also freezes samples taken for future testing
- Co-ordinated & prioritised response to complaints received - including liaising with RSPCA, Councils, and the public as required.
- GRV has developed Greyhound Welfare Penalty Guidelines that outline recommended penalties.
- • The RADB impose penalties for those who fail to provide for the welfare of their greyhounds – welfare breaches are considered a ‘serious offence’ under the rules and cases are heard by this independent board.
- The GRV Integrity Council and the Board also recently funded a program by Melbourne University to undertake research into the detection of prohibited substances.
- Assistance in cases where greyhounds require care or re-homing – such as deceased estates, owner illness etc.
- Only artificial materials are permitted for use as a lure for the purpose of training a greyhound.
- Inspection and licensing of Trial Tracks