

GRV Animal Welfare Initiatives: Racing Opportunities and Re-Homing

GRV wants all greyhounds to have the opportunity to have a long and prosperous racing career, so providing racing opportunities for all classes of greyhound is an industry priority. When a greyhound's racing career draws to an end, GRV strongly encourages owners and trainers to make use of the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP), to keep the greyhound themselves as a pet, or to find suitable homes for their retired racers with family and friends.

Racing Opportunities

- GRV provides more than 21 meetings per week and there is also a number of coursing racing opportunities for greyhounds in Victoria.
- In February 2015 GRV introduced Grade 6 and Grade 7 races to afford greyhounds just beginning their career the opportunity to race against similarly inexperienced greyhounds. This allows them to transition through the grades until they are experienced enough and confident enough to race against older greyhounds.
- GRV is committed to providing racing alternatives for slower greyhounds, or those out of form, initially introducing Tier 3 racing. This is a very well supported race type offering slower greyhounds the opportunity to race for reduced prize-money in randomly drawn (rather than graded) races.
- Regular 'All Maiden Meetings', 'Restricted Win' races and 'Veterans' races and 'Female only' races offer opportunities for different groups of greyhounds to race against greyhounds of similar ability.

Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP)

- GRV's world-leading program that finds homes for greyhounds that have retired from or who are unsuitable for racing.
- The GAP program operates out of a purpose built facility located in Seymour with 3 full-time, as well as permanent part time and casual staff all funded by the industry. There are also a number of volunteers that assist in the care of the greyhounds.
- In the 2013/2014 Financial Year, 536 greyhounds were adopted out of GAP
- So far in FY15 (July 14 – Jan 15) 434 dogs have been adopted; 149 more than same period last year (+52%) and 294 more than the same period in 2010/11 (+310%)
 - These numbers have steadily increased over the last four years;
 - Jul 2013- Jan 2014: 285 dogs were adopted
 - Jul 2012- Jan 2013: 205 dogs were adopted
 - Jul 2011- Jan 2012: 192 dogs were adopted
 - Jul 2010- Jan 2011: 140 dogs were adopted
- GAP has an exemption under the *Domestic Animals Act (1994)* meaning GAP greyhounds can be walked muzzle free in public provided they are wearing their individually numbered GAP Green Collar
- Our GAP staff provide ongoing assistance and training of smaller GAP programs and their staff from around the country

- The GAP National Testing Protocol aimed at providing an unemotional, consistent, repeatable test for greyhound suitability for re-homing was developed here in Victoria and has now been adopted by GAP in all states and the Green-hounds program in NSW.
- The GAP 'Prison Pet Partnership' is a fantastic program that sees minimum security prisoners in two Victorian Prisons act as Foster Carers for the program – leading to an increase in prisoner morale and skills, and an increase in the ability of the program to process greyhounds. GRV& GAP provide both training and ongoing support for the prison staff, inmates, and greyhounds involved in this program.
- Large number of Fact Sheets developed and provided via the GAP website to assist both GAP Adoptees and the general public better look after their retired greyhounds – topics covered include health and wellbeing, training etc