



MEDIA RELEASE

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GWIC introduces two new Local Rules

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission have announced the introduction of two new Local Rules from Friday 17 December, following consultation with key stakeholders. The Local Rules are being introduced ahead of the new National Racing Rules, which are expected to be announced in early 2022.

Chief Executive Officer, Steve Griffin, said the new Locals Rules relate to breeding exemptions and pin firing, and focus on formally supporting the welfare standards already being met by the industry.

“Following consultation with veterinary professionals and the industry, GWIC will introduce a Local Rule specifically addressing the practice of pin firing under Local Rule 27A,” Mr Griffin said.

“Greyhounds that have been subject to a pin firing procedure will not be permitted to race in New South Wales.”

Pin Firing refers to the application of a thermal stimulus (such as hot wires) to the leg of an animal with the intention of causing tissue damage and the development of scar tissue around tendons and ligaments of the leg.

“Pin firing has been illegal in NSW since 1997 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA) and the introduction of this Rule has been widely supported by the industry who view this procedure as unacceptable,” Mr Griffin said.

Participants will be familiar with Rules 127 (10) and (11) which prohibit breeding from female greyhounds that have reached the age of 8 years, or have already had 3 litters, unless they have been granted an exemption by the Controlling Body.

The Commission has reviewed its procedures for assessing exemption applications to ensure the welfare of greyhounds is protected, and the criteria for assessing the applications are clear and fair to applicants.

“Local Rule 127 clarifies breeding exemptions will no longer be considered where the female greyhound is aged 10 years or older, or has already had 5 litters,” Mr Griffin said.

“An updated Breeding Exemption form will also be introduced, including a new comprehensive veterinary certificate which must be completed by the registered veterinary practitioner who examines the female greyhound.”

“These changes have been introduced based on expert advice and aim to mitigate the welfare risks involved in breeding older greyhounds.”

“I would like to thank the industry groups that assisted in the development of the new Rules, their feedback highlights that the industry are already exceeding the expectations set out by these Rules.”

For more information on the introduction of Local Rules 27A and 127, visit the GWIC website or call 13 49 42 (13 GWIC).

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