

Why do I need an exemption order?

Section 41 (1) of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* states that 'a person must not, on any premises at or on which greyhounds are kept, trialled, trained or raced, keep any animal that is reasonably capable of being used as a lure in connection with the trialling, training or racing of greyhounds'. An 'animal' is defined in the Act and includes the skin or carcass of an animal.

Section 41 (2) states that 'the Commission may make an order (an exemption order) authorising the person to keep an animal of the kind specified in the order'.

The Greyhound Racing Rules include similar requirements. R 86B makes it an offence to bring an animal that is reasonably capable of being used as a lure onto a property where greyhounds are kept, trialled, trained or raced.

Participants who keep greyhounds are prohibited from keeping animals that may be used as a lure. However, participants may apply to the Commission for an exemption that allows them to keep such animals in certain circumstances. This is called an 'Animal Exemption Order'.

How do I apply?

Applying for an exemption order is straightforward.

Participants are asked what animals they keep at their premises as part of the application process. The application for an exemption order is assessed as part of your application to register as a participant, and you will be advised of the outcome as part of your registration.

Participants who were registered with GRNSW as at 30 June 2018 will have completed an Animal Declaration Form and submitted it to GRNSW before that date. These declarations remain in effect until 30 June 2021. Participants who have previously made a declaration to GRNSW will be asked to apply for an exemption order as part of the registration renewal process.

Updating Animal Exemption Orders

If your circumstances have changed – that is, the animals that you keep have changed – you can complete a separate Animal Declaration Form to update the information. It is advisable to update your details regularly so that Commission inspectors have accurate information about all the animals that you keep.

All participants will be asked to update their information as part of the registration renewal process in 2021. Registrations must be renewed by 30 June 2021.

What animals can I keep?

An exemption order can specify any kind or number of animals except for possums or rabbits. The Act does not allow the Commission to grant an exemption order for a rabbit or possum. This means that participants cannot keep these animals at all.

But there are native animals on my property?

An exemption order is not required for animals that are wild, such as kangaroos, wallabies, possums or snakes. An exemption order is only required if you keep the animal.

'Keeping' is defined as having possession or control of the animal. For example, if a native animal is in an enclosure that it cannot escape or relies on you for food, you would be considered to be keeping it. But native or feral animals that come and go through your property are not under your control, so you are not 'keeping' them even if you are aware that they may be there.

What counts as an animal?

Participants need to apply for an exemption order for any animal that could be used as a lure, such as cats, small dogs, guinea pigs, ferrets or chickens.

You also need to apply for an exemption order for any animal of which part may be used as lure. This includes animals such as horses, cows, sheep, goats, dogs (not including greyhounds), and other livestock animals or pets.

It also includes fowl and birds such as ducks or pigeons, but does not include fish or shellfish.

You do not need to apply for an exemption order for the following:

- Large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, pigs or goats, or large or medium-sized dogs (though you do need to apply for an exemption for lambs, piglets, kids, small dogs and cats)
- Animal skin used for interior home decoration i.e. cushions, rugs
- Clothing or items made from animal products i.e. jumpers, jackets, shoes, handbags
- Meat available for human consumption
- Commercially available pet food
- Animal bones

Though an exemption order is not required, these items must be used only for the purpose they were intended and not as a lure. If they are used for any other purpose at a property where a greyhound is kept, trialled, trained or race, this may constitute an offence.

Will my application for an exemption be approved?

When the Commission receives applications for exemptions, it considers:

- The number of animals being kept
- The type of animals
- The purpose for which the animals are kept
- How the animals are housed
- Greyhounds that you have on your property
- Greyhound training facilities on your property

Most applications for an exemption order are approved. In some cases, the Commission may ask you for more information or arrange an inspection to confirm the information that you have provided.

What if my application is not approved?

Most applications for an exemption order are approved. If your application is not approved, you can request a review of the decision.

