



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Removal of ear tattoo requirements



**The practice of ear tattooing of greyhounds as an identification method will cease Australia-wide 1 November 2024.**  
**All jurisdictions will move to the microchip as the primary method of identification.**  
**This highlights a commitment to drive the best possible standards of greyhound welfare.**

Question	Answer
When will ear tattooing requirements be removed?	From 1 November 2024, the requirement for ear tattooing all registered greyhounds in Australia will cease.
Why is ear tattooing as a form of identifying greyhounds being terminated?	This move highlights the industry-wide commitment to drive the best possible standards of greyhound welfare. As advancements in and access to technology have improved techniques for the identification of animals, so too has the reliability of identification methods employed by, and available to, the greyhound industry.
What methods will be used for the identification of greyhounds?	The microchip will remain the primary identifier for all registered greyhounds. Nose Print Recognition is currently being developed as a secondary form of identification for greyhounds on the NSW register. Both microchipping and Nose Print Recognition provide efficient and advanced means of greyhound identification and traceability.
Who can microchip greyhound puppies and when?	GWIC greyhound registration officers will microchip a litter of pups between 12-20 weeks of age. The registration officer will record the microchip of each pup on a litter identification form.
What happens if the microchip cannot be located or read by the scanner?	Each greyhound pup will continue to be provided with a unique registration code that will sit with the greyhound's digital profile and remain uniquely attributed to that greyhound for life. If a microchip cannot be found or read, a replacement microchip must be inserted. A DNA sample may also be taken to verify the greyhound's identity. GWIC will also implement Nose Print Recognition as a secondary form of identification which can be used if the microchip cannot be found.
What happens if the microchip can not be located by the scanner at a race meeting?	Stewards will undertake all reasonable steps to ensure that the correct greyhound has been presented. Stewards will have to undertake other means of identification to satisfy themselves the correct greyhound has been presented. This will include checking ear brand (where existing) and/or markings and cross-refencing it to the card & e-Trac. Nose Print Recognition will also incorporated into future race day procedures as a secondary form of identification. If stewards are not satisfied that they cannot establish the greyhound's identity, it will be scratched.
How can I tell my greyhounds apart without an ear tattoo?	GWIC's Nose Print Recognition initiative will include a free smart phone app which means greyhounds can be verified by any industry participant though the eTrac portal.  There are also a number of low-cost microchip scanners on the market which participants can invest in for day-to-day use in kennels, which can be used in conjunction with colour-coded collars.