

# Fencing and barriers to escape

Industry Practice Guide 15.0



## NSW Greyhound Code of Practice

### Relevant Standards

**5.1** All enclosures used to keep greyhounds must provide at least enough space for each greyhound to feed, sleep, sit, stand, lie with limbs extended, stretch and move about.

**5.2** Greyhounds must be securely confined to prevent their escape from the property at which they are kept and prevent unauthorised persons gaining access to the greyhounds. Unless the greyhound is under supervision, there must be at least two barriers between a greyhound and escape from the property at all times.

**5.3** All greyhound enclosures, housing and sleeping areas must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that is safe and provides for the well-being of greyhounds.

**5.4** Any security measures installed in or around greyhound housing areas must not prevent easy access to greyhounds, or efficient removal of greyhounds in the event of an emergency.

### Which kind of fencing is best?

#### How high does it need to be?

#### How much will it cost?

The NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice requires that greyhounds must be securely confined to prevent their escape from the property, with two barriers between a greyhound and escape from the property, unless the dog is under supervision.

This means that a greyhound kept within a kennel, for example, will be considered secure as long as there is another fence around the kennel – this may be around the kennel area or around the perimeter of the property.

The kennel forms one barrier, and the fence around the property forms a second barrier. However, if a greyhound is outside its kennel and within a yard where there is only one barrier to stop it escaping from the property, it must be supervised.

### What is supervision?

Supervision, for the purpose of standard 5.2, need not be direct supervision. This means that you do not need to have direct line of sight over the greyhounds at all times.

Having someone present on the property who is aware of where the greyhounds are and who is checking on them regularly is sufficient.

### How high does fencing need to be?

Kennels, where greyhounds spend the most time, must be at least 1.8 metres (six feet) high – high enough to keep greyhounds contained and to allow humans to access them easily.

A 1.8 metre fence around the perimeter of a property is ideal. As this may not be practical for some participants, 1.5 metres is the recommended height for fencing external greyhound yards including outdoor yards, toileting areas and exercise yards.

If you have greyhounds that are fence jumpers, you may need to consider higher fencing or supervise these dogs when they are out of their kennel pen.



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## What kind of materials to use

Fencing can be made of different materials, and the most important thing is that it is safe (for both greyhounds and humans), secure, durable, and well maintained.

Fences can be solid (e.g. Colorbond fencing), or made of galvanised wire, or weld mesh.

If you are using wire mesh, the gauge should not exceed 75mm x 50mm in size.

For enclosures in which puppies are kept, 50mm x 50mm is recommended.

In areas where snakes are common, you might want to consider using snake-proof mesh to protect your greyhounds.

Greyhounds can jump, and they can also dig! Consequently, it is advisable to sink fencing by 200–300mm under the ground.

