

Proposal

Assessment of best practice rearing, socialisation, education and training methods for greyhounds in a racing context.



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From:	NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association
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Contract Name:	Assessment of best practice rearing, socialisation, education and training methods for greyhounds in a racing context.
RFQ Number:	GRNSW310315

1. NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association (NSW GBOTA company profile

The NSW GBOTA is Australia's largest Greyhound Racing organisation. It has racing operations at the following venues:

- Appin
- Bathurst
- Bulli
- Gosford
- Gunnedah
- Lismore
- Maitland
- Temora
- Wentworth Park

In addition to its racing function, the NSW GBOTA is also an organised representative group on behalf of owners, trainers and breeders. The Association currently has just under 1,200 members and 28 Branches throughout NSW. The Branches meet on a monthly basis and promote suggestions via the Directorate. The NSW GBOTA believes this process enables it to represent the position of average participants accurately and effectively.

The NSW GBOTA Directorate comprises 10 members, all of whom are elected for two year terms by members.

The NSW GBOTA is represented on a number of State and National bodies as follows:

- Australian Greyhound Racing Association (NSW GBOTA Chairman is currently the AGRA Deputy Chairman)
- Australian Federation of Greyhound Breeder Owner Trainer Associations
- Metropolitan & Provincial Greyhound Racing Clubs Association
- Greyhound Racing Clubs Association
- Greyhound Media Services
- Greyhound Racing Industry Consultative Group

The NSW GBOTA has been incorporated since 1939.

2. NSW GBOTA Capability Statement

(i) Previous experience in similar projects;

The NSW GBOTA has a long history in greyhound racing. More than any other organisation, it is able to represent the views of owners, trainers and participants. It is uniquely placed to gather the primary data required in this project – participant input.

The NSW GBOTA has made a number of submissions to Government bodies, including a recent submission on the Greyhound Racing Act, and to GRNSW including a recent submission on the proposed animal welfare levy.

The NSW GBOTA and its Directors have also made commended contributions to the 2014 Parliamentary Inquiry.

The NSW GBOTA does not present, however, as a specialist in report writing. It presents as a body with unique knowledge regarding the issues to be researched. The team brought together to complete the project will include the necessary specialists at research, report writing and academic levels.

Executive Officer Brenton Scott (Graduate Diploma of management) will act as project co-ordinator.

The NSW GBOTA will also employ two research assistants.

An academic will be appointed to prepare special reports.

Project oversight will be an independent expert appointment.

A report writing company will assist with report compilation.

3. Project scope

1. Request

GRNSW is seeking proposals from suitably qualified individuals or organisations to review, identify and recommend best practice greyhound rearing, socialisation, education and training methods that will support a sustainable and vibrant industry and move away from any reliance or association with animal products.

2. GRNSW expected deliverables

The work required will assist GRNSW and partner controlling bodies to further mitigate the risk of live baiting practices in the racing industry and implement and educate industry to adopt best practice rearing, socialisation, education and training methods. The work should be in the form of a written report and involve a presentation of project findings to GRNSW, senior manager of interstate partner controlling bodies and Greyhounds Australasia.

3. Relevant NSW Legislation

Relevant NSW Legislation While the racing industry is self-governing, there is a range of legislative and other mechanisms in place to assist its effective regulation, including governance arrangements, integrity controls and practices supporting animal welfare. The primary oversight of animal welfare in NSW is by way of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, which is administered by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Enforcement of the provisions of that Act is the Page 4 of 6 responsibility of RSPCA NSW, NSW Police and the Animal Welfare League NSW.

4. Summary of proposal

The NSW GBOTA will undertake the project using a combination of primary and secondary data collation. This will involve intense interaction with participants across the rearing, education and training disciplines. In addition, secondary data collation regarding published research, two specialised reports from animal behaviour perspectives and an evaluation of lure systems and types will provide an analysis platform that will allow the NSW GBOTA to present a set of recommendations that have both practical and scientific base.

A summarised outline of the various steps is as follows:

- Collation of research re current methods across rearing, education and training disciplines by interview, site visit and questionnaires. Cross section approach with specific interviews with Australian, Irish and American interests.
- Collation of veterinary opinion on the above.
- Evaluation of lure systems (including finish on), lure positions and lure types currently in use.
- Gathering of secondary data re current policies, procedures and research.
- Commissioning of two papers with specific regard to animal behaviour. One, possibly prepared by Dr. Karen Cunnington, will assess socialisation and the connection to reduced anxiety, reduced need for prey drive motivation and better preparation for rehoming from a behaviour perspective. The second is to be prepared by a recognised animal behaviour academic, will analyse chase stimuli. This report will analyse the connection the most significant triggers to greyhounds chasing; sight sound and the reward of the catch.
- Analysis of the interviews, primary and secondary data, professional papers.
- Report and recommendations.

Essentially, the final report will blend coal face participant feedback against the research findings from the professional papers in forming recommendations. The writing team is still being finalised but will be a professional team, supported by a company with report writing and editing skills. Whilst the NSW GBOTA will co-ordinate the project and drive most of the collation of the current practice information, we also intend appointing a specific person to manage project oversight. One of the persons under consideration is Professor Percy Allan, a former Head of Treasury and former Chairman of Greyhound Racing NSW.

5. NSW GBOTA proposed methodology and approach to this proposal

(i) Review and assess current domestic and international methods of the rearing, socialisation education and training of greyhounds in their lifecycle including any significant shift from the use of live animal baits and lures.

1) Rearing

Interviews and site visits to the following persons

- Paul Wheeler
- Martin Hallinan
- Kim Hyde

Objective: Explore current methods, including adjustments made, or needed to be made, to rearing methods in order to comply with current GRNSW lure policy.

2) Socialisation

- Interviews with various participants to ascertain current processes
- Report from a leading socialisation expert (Dr. Karen Cunnington currently under consideration) and the connection between socialisation strategies and reduced anxiety at race stage, reduction in the need for prey drive development and improved behavioural preparation for post racing rehoming.

Objective: Explore current socialisation approaches and findings of independent report so as to identify adjustments in socialisation methods in order to align with current NSW lure policy.

3) Education

Interviews and site visits to three education facilities including:

- Brendan Wheeler
- Glengarrie Trial track

Objective: Explore current methods, including adjustments made, or needed to be made to education methods in order to comply with current GRNSW lure policy and assessment of success/failure ratios.

4) Training

Interviews with 15 Australian based leading trainers regarding current training methods, including pre-training and race training with the intention of maintaining chasing intensity. Evaluation of adjustments made and under consideration in order to comply with current NSW lure policy.

Trainer interviews to include:

- Anthony Azzopardi (NSW)
- Brendan Wheeler (NSW)

- Jason Mackay (NSW)
- Christine Oldfield (NSW)
- Ruth Matic (NSW)
- Andrea Dailly (VIC)
- Jason Thompson (VIC)
- Robert Britton (VIC)
- Geoff Collins (VIC)
- Petar Jovanovic (SA)

Objective: Explore current methods, including adjustments made or proposed in order to comply with current GRNSW lure policy.

5) Assessment of Lure systems

- Collation of a specific report regarding lure types in use at trial tracks and racetracks in Australia. Report to further assess finish on lure race meeting systems in place in South Australia, New Zealand and previously Queensland. Analysis as to the connection to chasing stimuli and maintenance of chasing intensity.
- Evaluation of lure systems in place internationally.
- Coordination of a finish on lure test at Gosford track and liaise with other States currently testing finish on lure systems suitable for race meeting use.

Objective: Explore current methodology and consider options that comply with current GRNSW lure policy whilst maintaining chasing stimuli and chasing intensity.

6) Website

Pop up website to be put in place to allow input to the project by registered participants. Options to include unshackled submissions and structured questionnaire.

Objective: Provide the opportunity for the widest possible cross section of participant views to be taken into account

7) Chasing stimuli

Specialised report to be prepared by an animal behaviour specialist (Dr. Paul McGreevy) regarding the triggers for the chasing stimuli in greyhounds. This report is to explore the significance of sight, sound and reward (catching of the pursued object) in maximising chasing intensity.

Objective: Creation of a defined, scientifically supported document regarding the most significant triggers to encourage chasing. Report to significantly impact on recommendations regarding future rearing, education and training methods.

8) International assessment

- Interview with Gary Guccione regarding American rearing, education, training and lure systems.

- Interview with Patrick Flynn regarding Irish racing, education, training and lure systems.
- Interview with Geoff Collins / Robert Britton / Paul Wheeler re American and Irish rearing, education, training methods and lure systems.

Objective: To understand international benchmarks so as to allow consideration in arising recommendations.

9) Veterinary input

Four interviews to be conducted with recognised greyhounds racing specialists regarding current rearing, education and training requirements.

Objective: Cross checking information source as to the physical and mental suitability of current rearing, education and training methods.

10) Research

- Australian, American, Ireland comparisons of current racing policies, animal welfare standards and relevant rules and legislation.
- Secondary data collation of published paper re animal casing behaviour, training of dogs generally, socialisation etc.

Objective: The ensure secondary data inclusion in analysis stage.

(ii) Identify and recommend best practice rearing, socialisation education and training methods that exclusively use artificial and synthetic materials as a bait or lure (i.e. do not involve the use of live or dead animals or animal products)

The recommendations arising will be based on the findings and analysis arising from research undertaken in the review and assessment of current domestic and international methods regarding rearing, socialisation, education and training.

(iii) Identify and recommend best practice rearing, socialisation, education and training methods that may include an acceptable level of animal content (i.e. professionally sourced skins) subject to appropriate approval, legal and policy constraints, ethical considerations and community support;

The recommendations arising will be based on the findings and analysis arising from research undertaken in the review and assessment of current domestic and international methods regarding rearing, socialisation, education and training

(iv) Identify and recommend lure operation systems that are used in best practice rearing, education and training methods;

The NSW GBOTA will ensure that all recommendations are directly connected to the analysis of all primary and secondary research data. All recommendations will:

- associated capital costs for all parties involved;
- implementation requirements and timing;

- training and education strategies;
- short-term and long-term welfare implications on greyhounds including current racing population and life after the track;
- risks including (but not limited to) non-compliance, adverse impacts on the industry and criticism by stakeholders; and
- impacts on relevant legislation, rules and policies;

(v) Demonstrate how recommended methods can be implemented and support the continuation of the greyhound racing industry.

The NSW GBOTA will ensure that all recommendations are able to be implemented and will support the provision of greyhound racing with training methods that are likely to be successful, will represent best practice and will be acceptable to the community.

The training method recommendations will be complemented by lure design, lure position and lure operational procedure recommendations.

Collectively, the training method and lure recommendations will represent a best practice 'chasing system' guide.

In order for the recommendations to have maximum effect, national adoption would appear essential.

6. Proposed Delivery Timetable

Date	Action	Deliverable
May 8, 2015	GRNSW appoints successful tender or tenderers	Determinations made as to single or combined tenders
May 8 2015 to May 15, 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of interview questionnaires, consent forms and appointments. • Engage specialised report provides. • Engage support team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lock in primary data collection • Lock in Academic reports • Lock in production team
May 15, 2015	Progress meeting with GRNSW	Progress update
May 15, 2015 to May 30, 2015	<p>Collection of primary data: Interviews, site visits, questionnaires</p> <p>Preparation of Academic reports</p> <p>Collation of information re finish on lure systems, lure alternatives</p> <p>Collections of secondary date research</p>	<p>Key information regarding current practice</p> <p>Key animal behaviour information secured re chasing stimuli</p> <p>Key information for analysis and recommendations</p> <p>Supporting data for analysis</p>
June 1, 2015	Progress meeting with GRNSW	Progress update
June 1, 2015 to June 5, 2015	Data and report analysis	Allows for report structure and recommendations to be determined
June 8, 2015 to June 18, 2015	Draft report written	
June 20, 2015	Meeting with GRNSW	Draft report presented
June 30, 2015	Final report presented	Project completed

7. Budget

Task	Allocation
Interviews, questionnaire and website preparation	\$4,000 plus GST
Interviews including site visits	\$17,000 plus GST
Research	\$3,000 plus GST
Special Reports	\$15,000 plus GST
Report writing	\$15,000 plus GST
Project oversight	\$10,000 plus GST
Other expenses	\$1,000 plus GST
TOTAL	\$65,000 plus GST