

The NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners & Trainers' Association



ACN 000 043 756
ABN 68 000 043 756

Registered Office:
Suite 3, Level 2
Wentworth Park Sporting Complex
Wentworth Park Road,
Glebe 2037

All Correspondence to:
PO BOX 485
Glebe 2037

Telephone: (02) 9649 7166
Facsimile: (02) 9649 7440
Email: gbota@gbota.com.au

NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association response to Department of Primary Industries

Discussion paper on proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats)
Standards and Guidelines – October 2017 and

Discussion paper on proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animals in Pet Shops)
Standards and Guidelines – October 2017.

Organisation: NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association (NSW GBOTA)
Ltd Pty.

Author: Mrs Ellen Harris – Operations Manager

Email: ellen@gbota.com.au

Address:

NSW GBOTA

PO Box 475

Glebe NSW 2037

Contact: 02 85871206

Fax: 02 96497440

Introduction:

The NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association (NSW GBOTA) was developed in 1939 as an advocacy body for greyhound racing participants. The Association today is both an advocacy body and racing facilitator. Comment to both the ***Discussion paper on proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards and Guidelines – October 2017*** and ***Discussion paper on proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animals in Pet Shops) Standards and Guidelines – October 2017*** are provided given the implications of both papers on the shaping of the NSW Greyhound Code of Practice. Further in development of the Code of Practice, there may present a time where the proposed Guidelines and Standards pertain to the NSW greyhound racing industry.

The NSW Greyhound Racing shall be bound by the Greyhound Racing Act 2017 (<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2017/13/full>) stipulates:

Division 2 Code of practice for welfare of greyhounds

35 Commission to prepare code of practice

- (1) The Commission is to prepare, for submission to the Minister, a code of practice relating to the welfare of greyhounds.*
- (2) The code of practice must (without limitation) deal with the following:*
 - (a) standards for the keeping, treatment, handling and care of greyhounds,*
 - (b) standards for the facilities, equipment and conditions at premises where greyhounds are kept, trialled, trained or raced,*
 - (c) standards for the procedures and practices to be adopted in relation to the keeping, trialling, training and racing of greyhounds.*
- (3) Those standards are to promote the welfare of greyhounds and be consistent with the objects of the [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979](#).*
- (4) The Commission is to seek the advice of the Welfare Committee in preparing the code of practice and may consult with such other persons or bodies as the Commission considers appropriate.*
- (5) Without limiting subsection (4), the Commission must consult with GRNSW in preparing the code of practice.*

36 Making of code of practice

- (1) The Minister may, by order published on the NSW legislation website, make the code of practice that has been submitted by the Commission. The order is to set out the code of practice.*
- (2) The code of practice takes effect on the day on which the order is published or, if a later date is specified in the order for commencement, on the later date so specified.*
- (3) The Minister may, by order published on the NSW legislation website, amend or repeal the code of practice. An amendment to the code may only be made if it has been submitted by the Commission.*
- (4) An order by the Minister under this section may only be made with the concurrence of the Minister for Primary Industries.*

37 Public access to code of practice

The Commission is to ensure that a copy of the code of practice is made publicly available on its website.

38 Relationship between code of practice and rules

In the event of any inconsistency between the code of practice and the greyhound racing rules, the code of practice prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

39 Offence to contravene certain provisions of code of practice

A person who contravenes a provision of the code of practice that is identified in the code as an “offence provision” is guilty of an offence under this section.

Maximum penalty: 1,000 penalty units in the case of a corporation and 200 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both, in the case of an individual.

Note.

Failure to comply with other mandatory provisions of the code may lead to the taking of disciplinary action under this Act.

The industry is therefore committed to a Code of Practice which implements animal welfare guidelines and standard relevant to the breeding, rearing, care and management of a greyhound.

The NSW GBOTA's position with regards to feedback on the POCTA draft papers aforementioned, is that the greyhound breed, where the breeder is registered with an Australian or New Zealand Racing Authority, should be exempt from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards and Guidelines and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animals in Pet Shops) Standards and Guidelines. This position is presented given the National Rules of Racing and local rules which govern the sport and for the fair majority cover topics covered within these discussion papers. The NSW GBOTA would like to work with both the Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission so to ensure that persons which are not registered with a Greyhound Controlling Authority are subjected to the POCTA standards and guidelines. Cross breeding and breeding by non registered persons is a concern to the NSW GBOTA, which we believe require specific strategies to protect the greyhound racing breed and integrity.

Under action items 59.16 of the Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices, that the NSW Government review the need for breeders to be trained and qualified. Despite instruction for standards and guidelines to not overburden the majority of good breeders of cats and dogs, it is the NSW GBOTA's position that the proposal, as it is currently written, is unworkable for small hobby breeders primarily. Within the NSW greyhound sector, the majority of participants remain small scale and therefore, while welfare and best practice remains a commitment of the NSW GBOTA and NSW greyhound industry, as it stands the guidelines and standards would discriminate in particular older participants and those in residential areas.

Specific responses in line with Discussion paper on proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Breeding Dogs and Cats) Standards and Guidelines – October 2017 and Discussion paper on proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animals in Pet Shops) Standards and Guidelines – October 2017:

Part 1 Preliminary

Breeding Dogs and Cats

4 Interpretation (Standards):

Breeding means the business of breeding of cats or dogs for fee or reward

Response: The NSW GBOTA believes the current definition does not have regard for breeding by hobbyists verse professional breeders of any breed. The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption to the Guidelines and Standards, as the NSW Greyhound Racing industry has regard for these variations. The NSW GBOTA would support Dogs NSW submission which defines Commercial Breeding Facility as one which has 10 or more breeding bitches. The NSW GBOTA however does not support the Dogs NSW definition of a breeding bitch.

Facility means any place, premises or thing used for accommodation or shelter of animals for the purpose of breeding or rearing dogs or cats, or where puppies or kittens are housed as a result of breeding, and include a vehicle used for the transportation of animals.

Person in charge of a facility, includes:

- a) *The proprietor of the business that conducts the animal trade of breeding cats or dogs at the facility,*
- b) *Each person concerned with the management of the facility, and*
- c) *Any person performing the role of the manager of the facility.*

Staff or staff member means a person who works in a facility including the person in charge of a facility, employees or volunteers, whether working full-time or part-time and whether working for fee or reward or not.

Response: As a result of other definitions within POCTA Animals in Pet Shops and Breeding Dogs and Cats, the definition of the above (facility, person in charge of a facility and staff/staff member) would see:

- a) Hobby breeders residence becomes a facility
- b) The resident/s become a “proprietor” and under Part 2 must have a Certificate II in Animal Studies
- c) Family or other habitants of the property could be considered “staff” and are therefore expected to undertake training, including Certificate II

Animals in Pet Shops

4 Interpretation (Standards):

Pet shop means any premises used for the conduct of animal trade for which an animal is kept for the purposes of sale, and include:

- a) *A shop*
- b) *Booth or stall at a market and*
- c) *Premises used for residential purposes and any associated structures.*

Response: The NSW GBOTA believes part c) implies therefore that any residence which has a dog or cat that is ultimately for sale can be deemed a ‘pet shop’ and therefore subjected to the standards and guide lines. This is an unacceptable definition given residential properties should be governed by the Breeding Dogs and Cats guidelines and standards, which should have regard for hobby and professional arrangements.

Part 2: Responsibilities and competency of staff

5 Responsibilities and competency of staff

5.1: (Guidelines) Managers, senior staff and those responsible for staff training and education should be encouraged to gain a Certificate III or IV in Animal Studies, and all staff involved in breeding dogs and cats should be encouraged to obtain a Certificate II in Animal Studies (includes working dogs).

Response: The NSW GBOTA supports the need for education and recognition of prior learning, in addition licensing which has regard to participant understanding for the NSW Greyhounds Code of Practice and related regulations around breeding. The NSW GBOTA believes the outlined standard, particularly for hobbyist is prohibitive, the NSW GBOTA seeks that greyhounds are exempt from the POCTA guidelines and standards.

5.2: (Standards) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that each staff member is provided with proper and adequate on-the-job training and experience in animal welfare matters for breeding cats and dogs.

Response: For hobby breeders, other members of the house are likely to be family and therefore should be able to assist in seek immediate veterinary attention for an animal in distress, however 'on the job training and experience' is unlikely and therefore restrictive on hobbyists. In addition, wording implies one must have a knowledge of both cats and dogs, rather than relevant breeds of cats and or dogs. The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards.

5.3: (Standards) During all hours of operation of a facility, the person in charge of the facility must ensure that at least one staff member is present who:

(a) has had proper and adequate on the job training and experience in each of the animal welfare matters for breeding cats and dogs, and

(b) from the date that is 2 year after the commencement of these Standards, holds as a minimum qualification, a current Certificate II in Animal Studies or higher formal qualification, or equivalent competencies that have been formally assessed by a registered training organisation

Response: The NSW GBOTA believes the above has been written with commercial operations in mind, and therefore while potentially required on a larger scale, 5.3.b in particular is restrictive and therefore prohibitive to hobbyist breeders. The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption of greyhounds from the overall guidelines and standards.

5.4: (Standards) A staff member must not carry out an activity in any of the animal welfare matters for breeding cats and dogs unless:

(c) the staff member has received proper and adequate on the job training in, and have experience of, that area, or

(d) the staff member is supervised by another staff member who has received proper and adequate on the job training in, and has experience of, that area.

Response: The NSW GBOTA holds concerns that the above definition is restrictive and in fact could prevent the appropriate care of an animal in distress being taken to adequate veterinary care as it is currently written. The definition again seems to primarily pertain to a commercial operation and therefore does not have regard for a hobbyist. The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption of greyhounds from the overall guidelines and standards.

5.5: (Standards) In this clause, animal welfare matters for breeding cats and dogs means:

- (a) the care and welfare of dogs and cats,
- (b) methods of identifying dogs and cats,
- (c) providing food and water to dogs and cats,
- (d) administering first aid or other treatments to dogs and cats under veterinary supervision or advice to dogs and cats,
- (e) cleaning and proper hygiene in the facility,
- (f) dog and cat behaviour and social or psychological needs of dogs and cats, abnormal behaviours and deterioration or injury cause by other dogs and cats or interference by the public,
- (g) procedures for receiving a dog or cat into, and selling a dog or cat from the facility.
- (h) housing dogs and cats,
- (i) handling and controlling dogs and cats,
- (j) the provision of socialization and environmental enrichment for dogs and cats,
- (k) moving, transporting and capturing dogs and cats,
- (l) identifying signs of health and ill health, both physical and psychological, in dogs and cats, including identifying when prompt veterinary care is required,
- (m) procedures for the care of sick and injured dogs and cats,
- (n) special requirements for pregnant, nursing, old or young dogs and cats,
- (o) disease and parasite prevention and control
- (p) procedures for managing emergencies in the facility, and
- (q) record keeping in the facility.

Response: The NSW GBOTA believes that this definition is all encompassing and by nature is prohibitive to all greyhound breeders no matter the scale. The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards.

6 Required numbers of staff

6.1: (Standards) During all hours of operation of a facility, the person in charge of the facility must ensure that the following staff are present:

- (a) a minimum of one staff member per 20 animals (litters with mothers to be counted as 2 animals) to feed and clean the dogs and cats and their housing, and provide socialization and enrichment to the dogs and cats, and:
- (b) sufficient staff to attend to all of the following duties:
 - (i) exercise dogs,
 - (ii) provide preventative and veterinary treatments as per veterinary advice to the dogs and cats.
 - (iii) receive dogs or cats into the facility, and
 - (iv) transfer ownership of animals being sold by the facility.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Breeding of greyhounds is traditionally undertaken within properties which also have racing greyhounds. As a result of dual responsibilities each day, the NSW GBOTA believes that there are economies of scale which are achieved in larger operations that allow both litters, racing and retired racers to receive feeding, health care and enrichment each day. The NSW GBOTA believes that this matter can be determined by NSW Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission inspectors as to individual operations and their methods and experience of achieving the overall requirements.

7 Staff training register

7.1: (Guidelines) The Training Register should be kept wholly by means of a computer with data back up mechanisms in place.

7.1: (Standards) The person in charge of the facility must maintain an electronic record of all training undertaken by staff (the Training Register).

7.2: (Standards) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the Training Register:

(a) the qualification in animal care held by each staff members, and

(b) details of training undertaken by each staff member, including the date of training and a description of the topics covered by the training.

7.3: (Standards) The person in charge of the facility must ensure that each staff member is provided with regular opportunities to up-date their qualifications and experience.

Response: The NSW GBOTA supports ongoing training, and with in the Greyhound Racing sector is working with Greyhound Racing NSW as to areas where education can be enhanced. Further participant licensing is expected to require participants to undertake competency certification prior to licensing and renewal requirements. The NSW GBOTA will continue to work with the NSW Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission and GRNSW to identify these needs and assist in participant education.

The NSW GBOTA however does not support records only being kept in digital form. This is excluding of particularly older and hobbyist members of the community, which can demonstrate their skills and that of others in other ways. The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall guidelines and standards

Part 3: Quality management systems

8 Directory of information about dogs and cats

8.1: (Guidelines) Records kept should have space for notes or observations regarding individual animals made during time at the facility, including any significant alteration in the animal's condition or behaviour since arrival.

(Standards) The person in charge of a facility must maintain an electronic register in which the following current information about all dogs and cats within the facility is recorded (the Animal Directory)

(a) microchip number and other permanent identification details of the dog or cat, such as tattoo information,

(b) any other unique identification details allocated by the facility to a dog or cat,

(c) the name, address and telephone number of the lessee of a dog or cat,

(d) for leased dogs or cats, the name and contact telephone number of the veterinary practitioner who normally attends the animal,

(e) type (species) and breed of the dog or cat,

(f) gender of the dog or cat and whether neutered (if known),

(g) colour and identifying features of, or marks on, the dog or cat,

(h) vaccination status (if known) of the dog or cat,

(i) date of arrival of the dog or cat at the facility,

(j) details of any special medical and dietary requirements of the dog or cat,

(k) details of any adverse observations referred to in clause 33,

(l) details of any preventative and veterinary treatment provided to the dog or cat while in the facility, including worming, parasite control and desexing,

(m) the date of birth, and registration number (for purebred animals) of dogs and cats,

(n) date of mating of the dog or cat at the facility including the name and microchip number of the dam and the sire,

(o) date of whelping or kitting of a dog or cat at the facility,

- (p) details of each litter including identification details of each animal within the litter, including any abnormalities or deaths,
- (q) name, address and contact details of the person to whom the dog or cat was sold,
- (r) the date and method of transfer of owned and leased dogs and cats, including whether the dog or cat was placed in foster care,
- (s) the date of death or humane destruction of dogs and cats, (including the reason for, and the method of, humane destruction), and
- (t) the date of cleaning and disinfection of all dog and cat housing.

Response: The NSW GBOTA supports information being obtained, collated and monitored. It is the Association's view that the greyhound industry should be developing infrastructure that allows the scanning and input of this data so it shall be sharable with the Controlling Authority so to enhance lifecycle tracking. The system however must be supported by non digital formats so to ensure inclusiveness within the community. The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall guidelines and standards,

9 Register of Companion Animals

(Standards) The person in charge of a facility must comply with the Companion Animals Act 1998 in relation to notification and identification information and registration information.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. It is the position of the NSW GBOTA that greyhounds should not register on the Companion Animals Register until such time that the greyhound is retired, and ownership is transferred to a person/s whom are not licensed by Greyhound Racing NSW / NSW Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.

10 Time period for keeping information

(Standards) The Animal Director must be retained at a facility for a minimum of five years.

Response: The NSW GBOTA believes records should be kept for a greyhound's lifespan, and be transferred when ownership is transferred. Further, the Association supports records being submitted to its Controlling Authority and once done so and confirmed, then record for greyhounds which are no longer on the property shall not be required to be kept. The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards.

11 Production of information

(Standards) For the purposes of section 24G of the Act, the Training Register and the Animal Directory are registers that staff must produce on request by and inspector to do so.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. The NSW GBOTA supports relevant identification or care of custody documentation being required upon request by relevant officials. This is in line with the National Rules of Racing.

12 Written operating procedures

(Standards)

- (1) *The person in charge of a facility must have in place written procedures for each of the subjects described in Table 1.*
- (2) *The person in charge of a facility must regularly review the written procedures to ensure that the written procedures continue to adequately address the subjects described in Table 1.*
- (3) *The person in charge of the facility must obtain advice from a veterinary practitioner:*
 - (a) *when developing the written procedures, and*

- (b) when amending the written procedures.*
- (4) The person in charge of a facility must ensure the facility is managed in accordance with the written procedures.*
- (5) The person in charge of a facility must ensure:*
 - (a) staff are provided with the written procedures,*
 - (b) staff acknowledge, in writing, that they have been provided with the written procedures.*
- (6) A staff member must:*
 - (a) read the written procedures, and*
 - (b) sign a document stating they have read and understood the written procedures, and*
 - (c) follow the written procedures.*

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA supports the need for participant skilling and licensing, however regulation must have regard for assisted learning also. Current focus is on written procedures. The Association further notes that the procedures outlined within Table 1 of the POCTA Consultation Draft of Standards (Breeding of Dogs and Cats), that 20 different standards are required. This is a substantial burden on hobbyist operations. Further, the NSW GBOTA supports Dogs NSW's concerns with regards to 'enclosures' and associated minimum heights. The NSW GBOTA accepts for greyhounds that there must be adequate space to stand, stretch and move, however limiting of height may be required due to behavioral issues (i.e jumping) or in the example of transportation where crates are utilised.

Part 4: Dog and cat housing standards

13 Construction standards for dogs and cat housing

(Standards)

- (1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that:*
 - (a) housing is designed, constructed and maintained, so that:*
 - (i) all solid surfaces are constructed of impervious, washable material and are free of cracks or crevices,*
 - (ii) walls and doorways prevent the protrusion of limbs of dogs or cats through to the outside of, or between housing,*
 - (iii) wall and floor junctions are impervious or curved to facilitate cleaning and disinfection,*
 - (iv) flooring surfaces are solid, impervious and non-slip,*
 - (v) liquids or faeces can be rapidly removed from housing with minimal risk of contaminating the coat of a dog or a cat or other housing,*
 - (vi) dogs or cats can easily access food and water,*
 - (vii) animals can be easily inspected by staff,*
 - (viii) the risk of injury or transmission of disease to a dog or a cat is minimised,*
 - (ix) dogs and cats are unable to escape or cause injury to other animals, and*
 - (x) dogs and cats are protected from distress or injury caused by interference by people.*
 - (b) housing has a roof and is partially enclosed so as to protect the animal housed from rain, wind, direct sunlight or other adverse weather conditions.*
- (2) The person in charge of a facility must ensure vehicles, caravans, portable crates located at the facility and the crawl space under any dwelling at the facility are not used as housing for dogs and cats.*

(3) Where a facility houses both dogs and cats, the person in charge of the facility must ensure the cat housing is a sufficient distance or otherwise isolated from dog housing to minimise the stress created by the sound, sight or smell of dogs.

(4) The person in charge of the facility must ensure the facilities have a continuous water supply, adequate to meet the daily requirements of the dogs and cats held.

(Guidelines)

(1) Tethering should not be used as a form of confinement.

(2) Dog and cat breeding facilities should be located away from sources of excessive noise or pollution that could stress or injure dogs and cats.

(3) Measures should be in place to protect dogs and cats from loud or sudden noise.

(4) Noise from barking dogs should be managed in consultation with a veterinary practitioner to determine the underlying cause of the barking and to implement a humane treatment plan. Excessive barking may be reduced by one or more of the following methods:

(a) judicious use of sound proofing or suitable construction materials which reduce noise;

(b) care with dog placement to avoid unnecessary arousal;

(c) limiting external stimulation, e.g. by partitioning dog housing, judicious use of blinds or dog housing design to prevent dogs from seeing into nearby pens;

(d) holding dogs in compatible pairs or;

(e) taking care to exercise dogs away from the sight of kennelled animals.

(6) All facilities should be sewerred or on a septic system, in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority, the relevant government department or other authorities; or have some other adequate and acceptable method for disposal of faeces and other liquid wastes.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017.

14 Lighting of dog and cat housing

(Standards) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that:

(a) housing is lit, either from artificial or natural sources, and that the lighting mimics the prevailing natural light cycles,

(b) the light in housing enables a thorough inspection and observation of the dogs and cats housed, and

(c) the dogs and cats housed are protected from excessive external light.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA believes 14.c requires further clarification. Is excessive external light meant as direct light that can result in overheating or heat related illness? The Association supports any animal having access to external light, as long as the ability to remove themselves to a shaded / cooler area is also available.

16 Temperature of dog and cat housing

(Standards)

(1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the temperature and humidity of housing is managed:

(a) so as to minimise stress and distress to dogs and cats;

(b) to prevent death or morbidity of dogs and cats, and

(c) so that housing provides an acceptable temperature gradient for the species being cared for.

(2) Very old and very young animals which are more sensitive than others to changes in temperature, must be provided with additional heating or cooling, if required.

(3) The temperature of any room in which the housing is located must not exceed 30 degrees Celsius and must not fall below 15 degrees Celsius.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. 16.3 in the view of the NSW GBOTA is suitable for Pet Shop environments, however residential properties the current guideline, as it is written is prohibitive. Steps should be taken to ensure no animal is in distress, including rugging, access to cool/iced water, shade etc.

17 Minimum housing requirements for dogs

(Standards)

(1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that dog housing:

(a) provides sufficient space to allow dogs:

(i) to walk around freely without obstruction, and

(ii) to sleep, and eat away from areas where they urinate and defecate,

(b) allows a dog to make normal postural adjustments and assume a comfortable position when lying down with limbs extended and when eating, drinking, sitting, urinating and defecating,

(c) allows a dog to hold its tail erect when in a normal standing position, and

(d) complies with the minimum sizes set out in Table 2 below.

(2) In Table 2, minimum floor area includes the area allocated to bedding.

(3) The minimum requirements set out in Table 2 do not remove the requirement that dogs are provided with sufficient space to rest, stand, stretch, or move freely, as appropriate to the species.

(4) The person in charge of a facility must ensure dividing partitions between dog housing must be solid, impervious and be of a minimum height of 120cm.

(5) The minimum sizes set out in Table 2 do not apply to dogs under veterinary care for a disease or injury.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017.

The NSW GBOTA does not support 17.4 in particular. It is common for partitions between greyhound's housing to be made of mesh, allowing individual space but an environment which still allows socialization between animals.

Further, the NSW GBOTA does not support the minimum height being set at 180cm for all dogs. This is impractical in care of puppies in particular.

Table 2 Minimum sizes for dog enclosures

Dogs	Min floor Area* (m ²)	Min Height (cm)	Min width (cm)
Puppies (+/- bitch)	3.5	180	120
1 dog, <40cm height at shoulder	1.5	180	90
2 dogs, <40cm height at shoulder	2.5	180	90
Socially compatible groups of dogs, <40cm height at shoulder, housed in backyard or house	1.5 per animal	-	-
1 dog, 40-60cm height at shoulder	2.4	180	90
2 dogs, 40-60cm height at shoulder	3.6	180	90
Socially compatible groups of dogs, 40-60cm height at shoulder, housed in backyard or house	2.4 per animal	-	-
1 dog, >60cm height at shoulder	3.5	180	120
2 dogs, >60cm height at shoulder	5.2	180	120
Socially compatible groups of dogs, >60cm height at shoulder, housed in backyard or house	3.5 per animal	-	-

*minimum floor area includes the area allocated to bedding.

19 Exercise enclosure for dogs

(Standards) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that free-running or off-lead exercise enclosures for dogs are:

- (a) a minimum size of 10 metres by 4 metres, and*
- (b) fenced so as to:*
 - (i) prevent a dog escaping,*
 - (ii) prevent a dog being injured, and*
 - (iii) prevent the protrusion of the head or limb of a dog through to the outside of the exercise enclosure or between exercise enclosures.*

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA's concern is 19.a is prohibitive to hobbyist participants which may have a space equal in square meterage as proposed but not in the defined measurements. Further, participants may seek to off set free running or off lead exercise daily with walking or trialling which provides the greyhound with a different forms of enrichment than proposed within the guidelines. The NSW GBOTA supports the Dogs NSW recommendations for enclosure heights dependent upon animal size.

20 Dog and cat treatment room

(Standards)

- (1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that a treatment room is available at the facility, away from public view, for the provision of first aid and the treatment of sick or injured dogs and cats.*
- (2) A treatment room may also be used for the humane destruction of dogs and cats, so long as the provisions of clause 52 are met.*

(3) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that a treatment room located at the facility:

- (a) is regularly cleaned and disinfected,*
- (b) is temperature controlled,*
- (c) has power and running water,*
- (d) has covered floor and wall junctions, and*
- (e) has appropriately sized cages.*

(4) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that dogs and cats undergoing treatment and housed in the treatment room are inspected at a frequency that ensures adequate care.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The above standards, in the view of the NSW GBOTA, have regard for a commercial operation, such as a pet shop and are therefore prohibitive to hobbyists.

21 Isolation facilities

(Standards)

(1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that an isolation facility is available to take animals from the facility of having an infectious disease or parasite:

- (a) at a facility, away from public view, or*
- (b) at a veterinary hospital with which the breeder has an arrangement to take dogs and cats from the facility suspected of having an infectious disease or parasite.*

(3) Isolation housing must provide adequate space for dogs and cats to be comfortable.

(4) Dogs and cats housed in an isolation facility must be inspected at a frequency that ensures adequate care.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA accepts steps must be taken to isolate an infectious animal, for hobbyist participants this must however be within reasonable steps given other guidelines of housing etc.

22 Group housing

(Standards) Staff must ensure that no more than four compatible dogs or six compatible cats are kept in any housing, unless they are a litter of puppies or kittens, with or without a lactating mother, and where the minimum cage size conforms to the minimum requirements.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA support the standard as applicable for greyhounds, however can see for other breeds, in particular smaller toy breeds, that the standards is not suitable for hobbyists in particular.

23 Special dog and cat housing requirements

(Standards) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that:

- (a) each individual housing has a designated raised sleeping area, which is clean and dry,*
- (b) all sleeping areas for dogs and cats have clean, hygienic and dry bedding:*

- (i) appropriate to the species and breed,*
- (ii) sufficient for and equal to the number of dogs and cats housed (unless litters of puppies or kittens), and*
- (iii) sufficient to insulate the cat or dog from the floor.*

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The 2016 Working Dog Alliance promoted co sleeping with compatible other animals. The NSW GBOTA accepts adequate must exist for both animals in these scenarios, however, co sleeping is likely to be driven by an animals desire to be close to another, and therefore concessions on space may be considered appropriate.

26 Design of dog and cat housing for security purposes

(Standards)

- (1) The proprietor of a facility must ensure that housing is designed to:
 - (a) prevent access by the public unless under the supervision of staff, and*
 - (b) prevent escape and theft of the dogs and cats housed.**
- (2) The person in charge of the facility must ensure all housing is fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the animals housed.*
- (3) The person in charge of the facility must ensure any security methods allow for ready access to dogs and cats and ready exit for staff and animals from the facility in the event of an emergency.*
- (4) The person in charge of the facility must ensure the facility is secured to prevent access to the facility by unauthorised people.*
- (5) The person in charge of the facility must ensure all potential poisons and harmful substances are kept out of reach of dogs and cats.*

Response: Standard is supported, though the NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017.

28 Emergency management

(Standards)

- (1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that staff are trained and practised in all matters in the emergency management plan, including the use of firefighting equipment in the facility.*
- (2) The person in charge of a pet shop must ensure that functioning firefighting equipment is available for use in the pet facility*

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA believes this is an area of education that can apply for greyhound racing participants, however provision of equipment for hobbyists without reimbursement or subsidization may mean the standards is prohibitive.

Part 5: Management of dog and cat care

29 General standards for the care of dogs and cats

(Standards)

- (1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that all staff are able to identify individual dogs and cats.*
- (2) The person in charge of the facility must ensure that staff exercise dogs for at least 20 minutes daily, whether on or off lead, except under the written advice of a*

veterinary practitioner.

(3) If a dog is allowed to exercise off lead, the person in charge of the facility must ensure staff place the dog in an exercise enclosure.

(4) The person in charge of the facility must ensure that no more than 4 compatible dogs are given access to an exercise enclosure at the same time.

(5) The person in charge of the facility must ensure staff supervise any yard for group exercise, and care is taken to avoid mixing of incompatible dogs, fighting and the transmission of infectious disease.

(6) Dogs must not be exercised in any way which may pose the risk of injury.

(7) Staff must ensure the long haired dogs and cats are properly groomed and that the dogs and cats coats are not left dirty, matted, tangled or unkempt.

(8) The person in charge of the facility must ensure that dogs and cats are provided with daily environmental enrichment.

(9) Environmental enrichment:

(a) must use stimuli that recognise the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species,

(b) must aim to facilitate good psychological health, and

(c) may include stimuli set out in Appendix 1.

(10) Environmental enrichment activities:

(a) must be rotated regularly,

(b) must not be limited to periods of exercise, and

(c) may use activities such as those listed in Appendix 2.

(11) The person in charge of the facility must ensure that every dog and cat receives daily socialisation, including direct handling or group exercise as listed in Appendix 1.

(12) The person in charge of the facility must ensure that every dog or cat, puppy or kitten receives at least 5 minutes of direct handling daily from one week of age.

(13) The person in charge of the facility must ensure socialisation of mixed litters or species is supervised and only undertaken with compatible animals of appropriate age, temperament and vaccination status.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017.

The NSW GBOTA believes that where area is large enough groups of more than 4 compatible animals, traditionally litter mates, may exercise together. 29.6 is prohibitive to a range of breeds including greyhounds.

30 Food and water requirements

(Standards)

(1) Staff must ensure that clean and fresh water is available to dogs and cats at all times.

(2) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that each day, dogs and cats are provided with a balanced and complete diet in accordance with the relevant written procedure which allows them to maintain good health and growth, recognising the physiological status and special needs of differing ages and species.

(3) Cats must not be fed a purely vegetarian diet.

(4) Staff must offer food to dogs and cats that are less than four months of age a minimum of three times a day from three weeks of age.

(5) Staff must offer food to dogs and cats that are more than four months of age a minimum of two times a day.

(6) Staff must supervise dogs and cats that are co-housed during feeding to ensure that each dog or cat is eating their own share.

- (7) Staff must remove and promptly dispose of uneaten, spoiled or stale food or water.
- (8) Staff must remove and clean food and water containers:
 - (a) immediately, if the container becomes contaminated with a substance that may be harmful to the animal, and
 - (b) otherwise, on a daily basis.
- (9) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that:
 - (a) food is prepared in an area that is clean and hygienic, and
 - (b) food is stored in such a way as to prevent its deterioration or contamination.
- (10) The person in charge of the facility must ensure food and water containers are:
 - (a) made from material that is non-toxic to the animal,
 - (b) designed to allow the animal easy access to its food, and
 - (c) readily accessible to the dog or cat, and positioned to avoid spillage or contamination by urine or faeces.
- (11) The person in charge of the facility must ensure sick dogs and cats are fed in accordance with veterinary advice.

(Guidelines)

- (1) Food should be served in non-spillable containers.
- (2) Food should be given to pups and kittens under four months of age with a maximum interval of 12 hours between feeds. (For example, a puppy that receives its third feed, and final feed, for the day at 5pm should receive its first feed for the next day no later than 5am the following morning).
- (3) For dogs and weaned puppies, one feeding bowl should be provided per individual dog or puppy. For cats, there should be one feeding bowl per adult cat and one feeding bowl per three kittens.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA would propose a potential variation to greyhound feeding for greyhounds under four months of age and how feeds are provided (individual bowls may not be used). Further, it is the view of the NSW GBOTA, like Dogs NSW, that a Dogs diet should not be purely vegetarian unless directed by a veterinarian.

31 Cleanliness and hygiene requirements

(Standards)

- (1) The person in charge of the facility must ensure staff clean and disinfect dog and cat housing at least once daily, with hospital-grade disinfectant, to minimise the risk of transmission of infectious disease.
- (2) Staff must promptly and hygienically dispose of all faeces, bedding, used or uncontaminated litter and all uneaten food removed from cat or dog housing in accordance with the requirements of the law.
- (3) During cleaning, staff must
 - (a) remove, or otherwise separate, all dogs and cats from the area being cleaned to protect the animals from becoming wet, and
 - (b) ensure the safe and humane handling of animals that pose a risk to the safety of other animals.
- (4) Staff must not allow dogs and cats to remain in extended contact with wet floors.
- (5) Staff must clean and disinfect housing, bedding, food and water containers and litter trays before a new dog or cat is introduced to them or before whelping or kitting.
- (6) Staff must minimise the risk of transferring disease from one animal to another by

thoroughly washing and sanitising their hands between handling animals.
(7) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that cleaning and disinfection chemicals and materials used in the facility are:

- (a) non-toxic to dogs and cats,*
- (b) chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness,*
- (c) used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions, and*
- (d) removed or rinsed away prior to an animal being returned to the cage.*

(8) The person in charge of the facility must ensure staff:

- (a) clean exercise enclosures daily, and*
- (b) if the exercise enclosure has a concrete floor disinfect the concrete floor at least once weekly.*

(9) The person in charge of the facility must ensure staff clean collection drains in a facility daily.

(10) The person in charge of a pet shop must ensure staff clean and disinfect preparation and storage areas in a facility and utensils and equipment used in the preparation and provision of food daily.

(11) Staff must inspect litter trays daily and remove any solid waste immediately.

(12) Staff must change, wash and disinfect litter trays:

- (a) immediately, if the litter trays become saturated with urine or covered in faeces, and*
- (b) otherwise, at least once daily.*

(13) If members of the public are allowed to touch any animals, staff must not allow a person to touch an animal if there will be an unacceptable risk of harm to the animal because the person:

- (a) has handled any animals that day,*
- (b) has any animals at home and whether those animals' vaccinations are current.*

(14) The person in charge of the facility must ensure that hand-cleaning facilities are readily available at the facility and the members of the public thoroughly wash their hands before and after touching any animals.

(Guidelines)

(1) Some disinfectants are toxic to some species, for example some common disinfectants containing coal and wood tar products such as pine oil, phenol, cresol and chloroxylenols, are toxic to cats. Tea tree oil is toxic to both cats and dogs. Staff should be familiar with these matters and avoid the use of inappropriate products.

(2) Chemicals used for pest control should be registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Code Act 1994 (Commonwealth) and only used in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

(3) Staff should be aware of the risks of transfer of infectious diseases and microbial contamination when handling animals or cleaning enclosures, as well as the practices that will reduce these risks.

(4) Provision of personal protective equipment, such as disposable gloves, is recommended.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA supports most of the standards proposed, however items such as 31.13 should be mitigated through actions such as those outlines in 31.14.

32 Requirements when transporting dogs and cats

(Standards)

- (1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure dogs and cats are in good health and assessed as fit for any intended journey.*
- (2) The person in charge of the facility may transport an animal assessed to be not fit for an intended journey:
 - (a) under veterinary advice, or*
 - (b) to a veterinary practitioner for treatment.**
- (3) During the transportation of dogs and cats to or from a facility, the person in charge in relation to the dogs or cats must:
 - (a) prevent injury, harm or distress by ensuring all cats are visually and physically separated from dogs, and incompatible dogs and cats of the same species are separated, so as to prevent injury, harm or distress,*
 - (b) monitor the condition of the dogs and cats and take any necessary action to protect them from injury, harm or distress,*
 - (c) every two hours, provide all dogs and cats with an opportunity to drink water, eat, stretch, urinate and defecate.**
- (4) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that containers used for transporting dogs and cats:
 - (a) are of a size that enables a dog or cat to lie down flat, turn around, stand erect and stretch with adequate clearance, and*
 - (b) are made of robust material, are escape-proof and sufficiently able to be secured.**
- (5) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that containers and vehicles used regularly for the purpose of transporting dogs or cats to or from the facility:
 - (a) have adequate ventilation, shade and temperature control sufficient to avoid harm and distress,*
 - (b) are designed to protect animals from injury through being free from protrusions or sharp areas in the carrying area,*
 - (c) are designed to protect animals from injury by having non-slip floors,*
 - (d) provide sufficient light to enable a dog or cat to be inspected during the journey, and*
 - (e) are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use to minimise the risk of the transmission of infectious disease between consignments of dogs or cats.**
- (6) The person in charge in relation to the animals must ensure dogs and cats are not be transported in the boot of a car.*
- (7) The person in charge in relation to the animals must not leave a dog or cat unattended in a vehicle.*
- (8) The minimum exercise requirement of these standards applies to transported dogs.*

(Guidelines)

- (1) Transport may cause distress to some dogs and cats and should be kept to a minimum.*
- (2) The transport of unaccompanied animals should be avoided where possible.*
- (3) All consignments of animals should comply with the recommendations and requirements for animal behaviour and containers of the current IATA Live Animal Regulations. For more information about the IATA Live Animal Regulations, see: www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/live-animals/Pages/index.aspx*
- (4) For more information about the standards for animal transport, refer to the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 1 - Companion Animal Transport Agencies.*
- (5) Any vehicle especially designed or regularly used for transporting animals should:
 - (a) provide easy access and safe access for handlers;**

(b) be air conditioned to protect against extremes of temperature even when stationary;

(c) protect against unauthorised release or escape of the animals; and

(d) be easy to clean and disinfect.

(6) The driver of a transport vehicle is the person in charge, and therefore responsible for the welfare of animals in the vehicle during transportation.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. Given transportation involved within the racing of greyhounds it is important in the view of the NSW GBOTA that specific guidelines be developed with Greyhound Racing NSW / NSW Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission. These condition should also have regard for the likely times of travelling connected to racing and distance travelled.

Part 6: Health standards for dogs and cats

33 Monitoring health status of dogs and cats

(Standards)

(1) When a dog or a cat arrives at a facility, the person in charge of the facility must ensure staff physically examine the animal to assess the physical and psychological health status of the animal.

(2) The person in charge of the facility must ensure:

(a) staff physically inspect all dogs and cats at least twice daily to monitor the health and well-being of the dogs and cats in accordance with the written procedure on health assessment, and

(b) record in the Animal Directory:

(i) all adverse observations where a dog or a cat is showing any obvious signs of injury, illness or distress, or

(ii) if dog or a cat is not:

A. eating,

B. drinking (in the case of kittens and puppies suckling or drinking milk),

C. defecating,

D. urinating,

E. behaving normally, including behavioural changes that may signify a deterioration in the physiological health status of the dog or cat, as determined by using the written procedure on health assessment,

F. able to move about freely, and

G. displaying a normal covering of fur.

(3) Staff must promptly report to the person in charge of the facility any changes in physical or psychological health status of an animal for appropriate action.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA supports the ongoing observation of an incoming animal, concerns relate to the Animal Directory, which have been referenced previously.

34 Arrangements with veterinary practitioner

(Standards)

(1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure:

(a) arrangements are in place between the facility and a veterinary practitioner to provide veterinary treatment to dogs and cats in the facility

and to provide advice on the care and welfare of those dogs and cats and on disease and parasite prevention measures; and

(b) staff act upon all advice provided by the veterinary practitioner.

(2) Veterinary services must be available at all times.

(3) The contact details for the veterinary practitioner must be posted in a location which enables staff and visitors to the facility to see them.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA supports the need for a relationship between any participant and a veterinarian. There are however examples where Veterinary services are not available at all times. It is the view of the Association that the participant must be able to demonstrate an effort to make contact with usual veterinary services or other regional 24 hour services.

35 Veterinary treatment of dogs and cats

(Standards)

(1) Staff must ensure that first aid and veterinary treatment is promptly provided to a dog or cat which appears to have a physical or psychological medical condition, including but not limited to any of the following signs or symptoms:

(a) runny nose,

(b) runny, discharging or inflamed eyes,

(c) repeated sneezing,

(d) coughing,

(e) vomiting,

(f) severe diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained,

(g) lameness,

(h) bleeding or swelling of body parts (other than the vulva of a female on heat),

(i) difficulty or inability to stand, walk, urinate or defecate,

(j) loss of appetite,

(k) weight loss, particularly if severe or sudden,

(l) apparent pain,

(m) fits, staggering or convulsions,

(n) patchy hair loss,

(o) bloating of the abdomen,

(p) red or brown coloured urine,

(q) depression,

(r) fever,

(s) presence of external parasites,

(t) uncharacteristic aggression towards humans or other animals, avoidance of contact with humans or other animals, freezing or hiding behaviours,

(u) uncharacteristic persistent vocalisation, pacing or circling,

(v) any other serious physical or behavioural abnormality.

(2) When assessing whether a dog or cat requires first aid or veterinary treatment, staff must follow the relevant written.

(3) The person in charge of the facility must ensure veterinary advice is obtained in the event of unexplained deaths.

(4) At the time a cat or dog is accepted by the facility for breeding, the person in charge of the facility must obtain written authority from a dog or cat's owner or nominee for the facility to obtain veterinary treatment for the animal.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best

Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA supports the education of participants in basic first aid that would allow the early identification of symptoms such as the above and appropriate action in accordance with symptoms.

36 Vaccination

(Standards)

The person in charge of the facility must ensure:

(a) dogs are vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and canine cough in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, unless a veterinary practitioner gives written approval for the dog to not be vaccinated.

(b) cats are to be vaccinated against feline infectious enteritis and feline respiratory disease in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, unless a veterinary practitioner gives written approval for the cat to not be vaccinated.

(c) kittens and puppies are vaccinated against common infectious diseases in accordance with best practice clinical guidelines, and in consultation with a veterinary practitioner.

(d) newly acquired dogs and cats are not mixed with existing stock for a minimum of 48 hours.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The Greyhound industry has vaccination requirements and the prevention of transfer of ownership prior to 3 months of age. The NSW GBOTA would also support and review of 39.d, appropriate socialization steps should be undertaken, however the Association would hold concerns over 48 hours of isolation.

Part 7: Transfer of ownership of dogs and cats

39 Requirements for dogs and cats to be sold

(Standards)

(1) The person in charge of a facility must not allow a dog or cat to be sold to a person who is less than 18 years of age.

(2) Staff must not allow a puppy or a kitten to be sold before the animal is 8 weeks of age.

(3) The person in charge of a facility must not allow a dog or a cat to be sold unless:

(a) the dog or cat has been microchipped and breeder details entered on the Register of Companion Animals,

(b) the dog or cat has received at least one veterinary practitioner examination,

(c) the dog or cat has been vaccinated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, unless with the written approval of a veterinary practitioner, and

(d) the dog or cat has been treated to remove internal and external parasites in accordance with the relevant written procedure.

(4) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that no dog or cat suspected of being sick, injured or physically or psychologically diseased is sold, unless a veterinary practitioner gives their written consent to the sale.

(5) The person in charge of a facility must ensure the animal is suitably contained or restrained before leaving the facility with a new owner.

(6) For the purpose of this clause, an animal is suitably contained or restrained if the

container or restraint protects the dog or cat from injury, other animals, extreme temperatures and excessive stress.

(Guidelines)

(1) All efforts should be made to home physically healthy and behaviourally sound dogs and cats.

(2) Aggressive, pregnant, unweaned or poorly socialised dogs and cats or animals with known vices such as excessive barking, fence jumping (dogs) should not be made available for sale without obtaining veterinary advice first.

(3) Where possible, breeders should participate in breed placement programs to assist pounds and shelters in the rehoming of surrendered dogs and cats.

(4) All facilities which sell dogs and cats should assist in promoting socially responsible pet ownership in the community.

(5) All advertisements for dogs and cats for sale should include the vaccination status of the animal.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The greyhound industry has specific regulations with regards to the sale of a greyhound including transfer of ownership post racing.

40 Guarantee and returns

(Standards)

(1) In this clause, the guarantee means the assurance given by the proprietor of the facility that if within three days of the date of delivery of a dog or cat to the purchaser, the dog or cat is not acceptable to the purchaser for any reason, the breeder will take the dog or cat back and refund 50% of the purchase price of the animal.

(2) The person in charge of the facility must provide a written copy of this guarantee to the purchaser at the point of sale.

(3) If the person in charge of the facility advertises and sells a cat or dog using any form of electronic communication, they must include the guarantee in the advertisement.

(4) If a dog or cat dies or is euthanased as a result of a physical defect or disease that is traceable to the point of sale and is verified by a veterinary practitioner, the person in charge of the facility must refund the purchase price or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.

(5) If a dog or cat dies or is euthanased and the reason for death or euthanasia is as a result of a confirmed heritable defect, the parents and any offspring from those parents still held by the facility must be managed for that heritable defect, under the direction of a veterinary practitioner.

(Guidelines)

(1) If within seven days a dog or cat is not acceptable to the purchaser due to health reasons, excluding injury, and the complaint is supported by a veterinary practitioner, the breeder and the owner should negotiate in good faith to achieve an equitable outcome.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. Guarantees are problematic given ages of sale and connection to racing.

41 Consideration of condition at proposed new home

(Standards)

(1) The person in charge of a facility must implement policies to ensure that prospective buyers are matched to suitable dogs and cats, in accordance with the relevant written procedure.

(2) The policies must require staff to:

(a) consider the number of animals already owned by the prospective owner so as to avoid hoarding of animals,

(b) be satisfied that the animal is physically and psychologically well, and

(c) be satisfied that it is within the capacity of the prospective owner to care for the animal.

(Guidelines)

(1) Matching of buyers to suitable dogs and cats should consider the characteristics and lifestyle of the buyer, the type and behavioural attributes of the animal including exercise requirements, and the environment of the new home, including yard size and presence of children and other animals.

(2) Dogs or cats should not be sold to inappropriate purchasers.

(3) The person in charge of a facility is reminded of the provisions of the Companion Animals Act 1998 concerning menacing dogs, dangerous dogs and restricted breeds and concerning notification of change in registration information.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. Licensing requirements should ensure the safe transfer of a greyhound.

42 Information and advice to the new owners

(Standards)

(1) At the time of sale of a dog or cat, the person in charge of the facility must ensure staff offer the new owner accurate written information about the care of the dog or cat, at no charge in accordance with the relevant written procedure.

(2) Information required to be provided to new owners includes, but is not limited to:

(a) general care requirements of the species, including appropriate diet and feeding regimes,

(b) usual life span of breeds or species,

(c) minimum requirements for humane shelter and accommodation,

(d) minimum requirements for the security of the dog or cat,

(e) minimum requirements for social contact with humans and other animals of the same species,

(f) minimum requirements for disease and parasite control/prevention,

(g) how to identify and appropriately manage common physical and psychological diseases,

(h) procedures for seeking emergency treatment for the dog or cat, and the value of establishing a relationship with a veterinary practitioner, or animal behaviourist or other experienced persons,

(i) the estimated costs associated with providing food and shelter for the dog or cat,

(j) routine veterinary treatment which may be required for the animal, Note: Routine veterinary treatment includes vaccination or parasite control.

(k) maximum time a dog or cat can be left unattended,

(l) the expected behaviours of the species or breed,

Note: Expected behaviours for a species or breed may include digging or scratching.

- (m) information about the legal requirements for pet ownership, and the penalties for non-compliance,*
- (n) the need for ongoing vaccinations,*
- (o) the desirability and advantages of desexing dogs and cats,*
- (p) minimum requirements for exercise,*
- (q) costs associated with registering the dog or cat,*
- (r) other information which is reasonable that the purchaser must be made aware of.*

(3) The person in charge of a facility must ensure all dogs and cats being sold are accompanied with a:

- (a) Breeder health declaration, that includes details of any known physical abnormality at the time of sale and how that abnormality may affect the short- and long-term health and welfare of the dog or cat, and*
- (b) a vaccination certificate detailing the dog or cat's vaccination history, and any other preventative and veterinary treatments provided.*

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. Licensing requirements should ensure the safe transfer of a greyhound, as well as industry education and material.

Part 8: Breeding and rearing

43 Special requirements for mating dogs and cats

(Standards) The person in charge of the facility must ensure:

- (a) bitches and queens are not mated during their first oestrous cycle,*
- (b) a dog or cat is physically and psychologically healthy, free of disease at the time of being mated,*
- (c) during mating, breeding pairs are isolated from the remaining breeding population, and monitored by the person in charge of the facility,*
- (d) a female dog or cat that is being unduly harassed during mating must be removed from the male,*
- (e) breeding mates are not be closely related to one another,*
Note: Examples of closely related animals are father and daughter, brother and sister, grandfather and granddaughter.
- (f) an animal known or suspected of having a heritable disease or defect is not used for breeding, and*
- (g) dogs and cats known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease are not used for breeding or accepted for breeding under lease unless a veterinary practitioner provides their written approval for the animal to be used for breeding.*

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. Regulations already exist around the process of mating, including requirement for registration, vaccination and DNA testing.

44 Frequency of breeding

(Standards)

(1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that:

- (a) bitches do not have more than two litters in any two year period, and do not have any more than six litters in her lifetime,*
- (b) queens do not have more than three litters in any two year period, and do*

have any more than six litters in her lifetime.

(2) If a bitch or queen is five years of age and has not reached six litters, the person in charge of a facility must ensure that the bitch or queen is examined by a veterinarian to ensure the animal's suitability for continued breeding

(3) The person in charge of a facility must arrange for a bitch or queen to be desexed when the bitch or queen has had six litters.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. Regulations already exist around the process of mating, frequency, success of progeny, age limitations.

49 Weaning puppies and kittens

(Standards) The person in charge of the facility must ensure:

(a) solid food must be offered to puppies and kittens from three weeks of age, in accordance with the relevant written procedure,

(b) puppies and kittens are monitored when first offered solid food to ensure that the food is acceptable and palatable, and if necessary, solid food may require moistening or softening to increase palatability,

(c) puppies and kittens are weighed weekly and individual weights recorded in the Animal Directory, in order to monitor that puppies and kittens are achieving a steady weight gain every week, and

(d) all breeding females must have a general health check by a veterinary practitioner within 8 weeks post-partum.

Response: The NSW GBOTA seeks an exemption for greyhounds from the overall POCTA guidelines and standards. Procedures outlined will be replaced with NSW Greyhound Best Practice standards relative to the breed and in accordance with the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. The NSW GBOTA believe breed specific standards should be developed which have regard for practices acceptable by veterinarian but also successful participants.

Part 9: Humane Destruction

50 Separate area require for humane destruction

(Standards) Staff must ensure that the humane destruction of a dog or a cat is carried out in an area that is separated from dog and cat housing and is not carried out in view of any other dogs and cats.

51 Method of humane destruction

(Standards) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the humane destruction of a dog or a cat is carried out by the intravenous administration of an overdose of pentobarbitone sodium unless there are compelling reasons to use another method to humanely destroy the animal.

52 Who may perform humane destruction

(Standards)

(1) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that the humane destruction of a dog or a cat is only carried out by a veterinary practitioner, except in emergency situations.

(2) In emergency situations, if the veterinary practitioner cannot attend the facility, the animal may be humanely destroyed under the direction of the veterinary practitioner.

(3) The person in charge of a facility that humanely destroys an animal must

make a record of the date, animal, method used to humanely destroy the animal, and reasons for emergency humane destruction, in the Animal Directory.

53 Humane destruction recommended by veterinary practitioner

(Standards) The person in charge of a facility must ensure that an animal is humanely destroyed if:

- (a) treatment to restore the physical and psychological health of an animal while in the facility is impractical or has been unsuccessful, and*
- (b) a veterinary practitioner has recommended that the animal be destroyed.*

Response: The NSW GBOTA believes terminology should be Humane Euthanasia rather than destruction. Further, the sequence of the standards in the view of the NSW GBOTA should be 52, 53, 51, 50.

Summary

The NSW GBOTA is committed to the continued reform of the NSW Greyhound Racing industry in sustainable and sensible manners which have regard for participant education, licensing and good industry governance. Standards and guidelines of the POCTA Breeding dogs and cats and Animals in Pet Shops generally do not appear to have regards to variations between professional and hobbyist facilities. Further definitions align residential and hobbyist properties to pet shops which isn't an appropriate classification.

The NSW GBOTA reinforces the request for exemption from the POCTA Breeding of dogs and cats and Animals in Pet Shops standards and guidelines. The NSW GBOTA hold this position on behalf of the NSW greyhound racing industry given the development of a dedicated code of practice as outlined in the Greyhound Racing Act 2017. Further a range of rules and regulations which ensure the industry is undertaking sensible and sustainable breeding.