

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government
in the Legislative Council



Getting Things Done.
Making Things Fair.

Monday, 23 April, 2018

IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE FOR GREYHOUNDS

Non-racing greyhounds will no longer be required to be muzzled in public under reforms announced today by the Andrews Labor Government.

From 1 January 2019, non-racing greyhounds won't need a muzzle in public, but will still need to be leashed.

The Labor Government also today approved and released the final Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds.

The new Code sets minimum standards that provide flexibility to greyhound industry participants, while prioritising the ongoing welfare of racing greyhounds.

Both decisions were made following extensive consultation with industry and the community.

The new Code was a key recommendation from Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Charles Milne, in his report *Investigation into animal welfare and cruelty in the Victorian greyhound industry*.

The report is one of two detailed investigations resulting in 68 recommendations to Government and industry following the 2015 live baiting scandal.

More than 1,300 public submissions were received and thoroughly considered in developing the Code, which reflects the importance of exposing puppies to certain activities during the 3-16 week critical socialisation period and includes a pathway for retiring greyhounds to prepare for rehoming.

The Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds will be enforced by Greyhound Racing Victoria, and is available at agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/dogs/greyhounds/code-of-practice

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford

"The new Code will boost welfare for greyhounds at every stage of life."

"We're striking the right balance between welfare for racing greyhounds, a strong industry and dogs that are well suited to become much loved pets in their retirement."

Quote attributable to Minister for Racing Martin Pakula

"We're ensuring animal welfare is a top priority so that the greyhound racing industry continues to thrive."

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