

Dog and Cat Management Board

***Approval of Greyhound
Muzzle Exemptions Policy***



Government of South Australia
Dog and Cat Management Board

Document Control:

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Description	This policy provides information to applicants seeking a greyhound muzzle exemption for animals rehomed outside of Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) about the application process.
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Policy

1. Legislative Context

Section 45C of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) requires that greyhounds which are not on private property:

- have a muzzle securely fixed on their mouths so as to prevent them from biting any person or animal and;
- must be on a leash of not more than 2 metres in length.

Section 80A of the Act allows the Board to grant exemptions from provisions in the Act, including the requirement for a greyhound to wear a muzzle.

45C—Specific duties relating to greyhounds

(1) A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a greyhound must ensure that, at any time the greyhound is not confined in premises of which that person is the occupier—

(a) in the case of a greyhound exempted from the requirement to wear a muzzle—the greyhound is under the effective control of a person by means of physical restraint; or

(b) in any other case—

(i) the greyhound has a muzzle securely fixed on its mouth capable of preventing it from biting any person or animal; and

(ii) the greyhound is under the effective control of a person by means of physical restraint.

Maximum penalty: \$5 000.

Expiation fee: \$315.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the greyhound—

(a) is being raced, exercised or trained on land (not being a public dog park provided by a council) with the consent of the owner or occupier of the land; or

(b) is participating in an organised activity (being a show, trial or class) and is under the effective control of a person by command, the greyhound being in close proximity to the person and the person being able to see the greyhound at all times.

2. Policy Statement and Purpose

The requirement to muzzle greyhounds was not introduced because the breed displays instinctive aggression, but because greyhounds generally have a strong prey drive that may cause them to chase, harass or attack. The instinct to chase is encouraged in a greyhound racing environment through reward and training. For a greyhound to be considered a suitable companion animal, a reversal of that training is required to desensitise the dog to the stimulus to chase. This can be achieved through force-free training and positive reinforcement.

The Board has determined that greyhounds which have passed the Board's accredited behavioural assessment procedure may apply for an exemption from section 45 (1) (b) of the Act, this allows pet greyhounds (retired from greyhound racing) to be un-muzzled.

The purpose of this policy is to set out the requirements and conditions that must be met for the Board to grant a 'greyhound muzzle exemption'. The policy establishes:

- (a) The conditions relating to Board approval of a greyhound muzzle exemption;
- (b) Identification of greyhounds that are exempted from wearing a muzzle; and
- (c) Conditions for the Board to revoke a muzzle exemption.

3. Definitions

DCM Unit Staff	Department of Environment and Water staff supporting the Board
Registered Owner	The person in whose name the greyhound is registered.
The Act	<i>Dog and Cat Management Act 1995</i>
The Board	Dog and Cat Management Board

4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Greyhound owners who wish to apply for their retired greyhound to be exempted from the muzzle requirement;
- Greyhound owners who have been granted a muzzle exemption by the Board; and
- Board approved Greyhound Assessors who deliver the Board's accredited greyhound behavioural assessment procedure.

Policy Implementation

5. Eligibility

For a greyhound to be eligible for a muzzle exemption, it must be retired from racing and deregistered in accordance with the Rules of Racing with the Controlling Body (i.e. Greyhound Racing SA). The dog must successfully complete the Board's accredited greyhound behavioural assessment procedure, which is set out in the Board's 'Accredited Behavioural Assessments for Greyhounds' policy.

The greyhound's behavioural assessment procedure must be conducted by a Board approved Greyhound Assessor. A list of Assessors is available from DCM Unit staff.

Only registered owners living in South Australia can apply for a muzzle exemption.

6. Application process

To apply for a greyhound muzzle exemption, the greyhound's registered owner must submit the following documents to Board staff:

- The Greyhound Exemption Application Form; and,
- The Greyhound Muzzle Exemption Safety Certificate that was issued by the Board approved trainer who conducted the assessment.

The documents may be submitted via post or in electronic format.

7. Recognition of Interstate GAP

The Board recognises a greyhound rehomed through an interstate Greyhound Adoption Program or Greyhound As Pets (GAP) operated by a Controlling Body (i.e. Greyhound Racing Victoria), has undertaken a behavioural assessment.

DCM Unit Staff may seek confirmation from the relevant GAP regarding the successful behavioural assessment.

This exemption from undertaking a behavioural assessment on relocation to South Australia applies to dogs that are compliant with the Act.

8. Approval

An application that meets the requirements will be assessed by DCM Unit staff and recommended for approval.

All greyhounds must remain muzzled in public until the owner receives written notification that the exemption has been granted by the Board.

The greyhound's Dogs and Cats Online record will be updated to show the dog has been granted a muzzle exemption.

9. Requirements of greyhound owners granted an exemption

The exemption is issued to the registered owner on the following conditions:

- The registered owner, or person responsible for control of the greyhound, must keep the greyhound under effective control by means of physical restraint when in public areas (under section 45C 1 (a) of the Act). The greyhound must be on leash, even in areas designated 'off-leash' by a council e.g. reserves, dog parks.
- The registered owner, or person responsible for control of the greyhound, must immediately notify the Board and local council if the greyhound:
 - attacks, chases or otherwise harasses a person, animal or bird; or
 - endangers the health of a person or an animal or bird owned by or in the charge of another person (whether or not actual injury is caused).

10. Revocation of a muzzle exemption

Any breaches of the requirements of this policy or the Act, by a greyhound or its owner, may result in the muzzle exemption being revoked.

On receipt of information regarding an alleged attack/harassment DCM Unit staff may contact the reporting party, council or consult with Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) to determine the outcome. Revocation of the muzzle exemption may be appropriate if the greyhound and/or registered owner has been found to have breached the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

If it is determined that the muzzle exemption should be revoked, a letter confirming the revocation will be sent to the registered owner and muzzle exemption will be removed from the dog's Dogs and Cats Online record.