Greyhound Raceday Hydration Policy

Owner: Office of the Commissioners
QRIC/2026/7497
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Under the *Human Rights Act 2019* a decision maker has an obligation to act and make consideration in a way that is compatible with human rights, and when making a decision under this policy, to give proper consideration to human rights.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds participating in Queensland race meetings by establishing clear and consistent requirements for providing and managing access to water during raceday kennelling and post-race care.

1.1 Policy Statement

This policy establishes the circumstances and procedures under which water may be provided to a greyhound at a race meeting. The provision, management or removal of water must occur in accordance with this policy and any direction given by the stewards.

2. Authority

- *Racing Integrity Act 2016*
- Rules of Racing (Greyhound)

3. Background and context

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) has statutory functions under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* to oversee the integrity of race meetings, safeguard the welfare of animals involved in racing, promote animal welfare and prevent non-compliance and lapses in integrity within the racing industry. In performing those functions, QRIC recognises that the welfare of greyhounds throughout raceday operations is paramount.

This policy establishes a clear, consistent and evidence-informed framework governing the provision and management of water for greyhounds during raceday kennelling, post-race care and prohibited substance sampling. It formalises the operational procedures to be followed by licensed persons, stewards, on-track veterinarians, race clubs and other relevant officials, while preserving the capacity for decisions to be made having regard to the welfare needs and circumstances of an individual

greyhound.

The policy supports consistent raceday practices across Queensland and enables stewards, in consultation with the on-track veterinarian where appropriate, to make welfare-based decisions concerning the provision, replenishment or removal of water. In doing so, it supports greyhound welfare whilst maintaining the integrity, regulatory oversight and proper conduct of race meetings.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all Queensland greyhound race meetings, including all Queensland greyhound racing clubs, licensed persons, stewards and QRIC appointed on-track veterinarians (OTVs), QRIC sample collection officers, and relevant officials. It outlines the protocols for providing water to greyhounds competing in an Event at a meeting.

This policy also extends to greyhounds kennelled at a meeting after competing in a satisfactory trial (noting that these greyhounds are generally not kennelled prior to trialling). For the purposes of this policy, any reference to an "event" or "race" includes a satisfactory trial where appropriate.

5. Definitions (including abbreviations and acronyms)

Term / Acronym	Definition
Attendant (Handler)	The licensed person who has custody or control of a greyhound at the relevant time during a race meeting.
Event	The competitive pursuit by one or more greyhounds of a lure at a racecourse, and includes a race, a series, a qualifying trial, and in the case of a coursing meeting, a "course". An Event does not include a satisfactory trial; it does not include any kind of trial other than a qualifying trial.
Kennel	An approved raceday kennel, including a kennel allocated to a greyhound before or after racing and a kennel used for prohibited substance sampling purposes.
On-track veterinarian	The veterinarian appointed or engaged to perform veterinary duties at a race meeting by QRIC.
Raceday kennelling	The period during which a greyhound is accommodated in an approved kennel at a race meeting, including any pre-race, post-race or prohibited substance sampling period.
Relevant official	A steward, on-track veterinarian, race club official or other person authorised

	to supervise activities under this policy.
Stewards	The stewards appointed to control and regulate the race meeting in accordance with the Rules of Racing.
Water	Clean, potable water supplied in accordance with this policy and any applicable requirements specified by QRIC.
Water bowl	A clean and suitable receptacle that meets any specifications or approval requirements prescribed by QRIC for use in raceday kennels.
Welfare-based direction	A direction given by the stewards concerning the provision, management, replenishment or removal of water, following consultation with the OTV where appropriate.

Note: Unless otherwise defined, words used in this policy have the same meaning as in the Rules of Racing.

6. Raceday hydration requirements and responsibilities

6.1 Pre-race hydration (during kennelling)

- During kennelling, handlers must present a clean, QRIC approved water bowl to the attending steward for inspection.
- Club officials must have available a minimum of one (1) bottle of water for each starting or trialling greyhound at kennelling.
- Once a greyhound has been cleared for kennelling in accordance with the Rules of Racing, the handler may elect to provide water to the greyhound. Where water is provided, the handler must, under the supervision of the relevant official:
    i. Place the greyhound in its allocated kennel;
    ii. Ensure the water bowl is securely affixed inside the kennel to minimise the risk of dislodgement or spillage;
    iii. Place no more than 300 mL of water in the water bowl;
    iv. Remove the water bottle from the kennelling area.

6.2 Post-race hydration

- Following a race, a handler may offer water to the greyhound at the wash bay using the hose provided.
- The handler must also:
    i. hose the greyhound down with water until panting has significantly diminished; and
    ii. where required at the direction of the stewards or OTV, use an available plunge tank or pool to assist with the greyhound's post-race cooling.

- Where a greyhound is returned to its allocated kennel following a race, the handler may elect to provide or replenish water in the greyhound's water bowl. Where water is provided or replenished, the handler must do so, under the supervision of a relevant official.
- A greyhound directed by the stewards to provide a sample must be placed in the designated sampling kennel under the supervision of a relevant official. If a water bowl was provided in the greyhound's allocated race kennel, the handler may retrieve the bowl and securely affix it inside the sampling kennel.
- While a greyhound is kennelled for prohibited substance sampling, its handler may elect to provide or replenish water in the greyhound's water bowl. Where water is provided or replenished, the handler must, under the supervision of a relevant official:
    i. Use a new, sealed bottle of water provided by the race club;
    ii. Place no more than 300 mL of water in the water bowl;
    iii. Remove the water bottle from the sampling area after use.

6.3 Directions

- Stewards may, in consultation with the OTV, direct that additional water be provided to any greyhound showing signs of dehydration or otherwise assessed as being at risk of dehydration, at any time during a meeting.
- Stewards may, at any time, direct that water be removed from a greyhound's kennel if they, after consulting with the OTV, are satisfied that access to water poses an immediate welfare risk to the greyhound that outweighs the risk of dehydration.

6.4 Responsibilities

6.4.1 Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner (QRIC)

a) Authorise stewards under the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* to exercise relevant functions under the Rules of Racing (Greyhound).
b) Administer and oversee the implementation of this policy.
c) Maintain and publish any forms, guidance or additional requirements necessary to support the implementation of this policy, including approved water bowl specifications and relevant raceday checklists.
d) Review this policy periodically to ensure that it remains accurate, relevant and operationally effective.

6.4.2 Stewards

a) Monitor compliance with this policy and any associated raceday hydration procedures.

b) Supervise, or arrange for a relevant official to supervise, the provision or replenishment of water in accordance with this policy.
c) Inspect water bowls presented for use and confirm that they comply with the QRIC approved specifications.
d) Make welfare-based decisions concerning the provision, management or removal of water, in consultation with the OTV, where appropriate.
e) Give any direction necessary to protect the welfare of an individual greyhound or maintain the integrity and proper conduct of the race meeting.
f) Record any hydration-related direction or decision, together with any relevant veterinary advice, in the appropriate report or race-meeting record.

6.4.3 QRIC On-Track Veterinarian (OTV)

a) Conduct pre-kennelling veterinary examinations of greyhounds in accordance with the Rules of Racing and applicable procedures.
b) Assess and advise the stewards on the hydration, cooling and welfare needs of an individual greyhound.
c) Advise the stewards where the provision, continued availability or removal of water may affect the welfare of a greyhound.
d) Provide advice concerning the use of wash bays, plunge tanks, pools or other cooling measures where appropriate.
e) Record any materiel hydration-related or welfare-related advice provided to the stewards, and any relevant instructions given to a handler, in the appropriate veterinary or race-meeting record.

6.4.4 Trainers & Handlers

a) Decide whether to provide water to a greyhound where permitted under this policy, subject to any direction given by the stewards.
b) Where water is provided, present a clean and QRIC approved water bowl and comply with the procedures prescribed by this policy.
c) Ensure that the water bowl is securely affixed within the kennel and that no more than the permitted quantity of water is placed in the bowl.
d) Provide or replenish water only under the supervision of a relevant official and using water supplied or approved by the race club.
e) Remove the water bottle from the kennelling or sampling area immediately after providing or replenishing water.

f) Comply with all hydration-related and welfare-related directions given by the stewards and any instructions given by the OTV.

g) Monitor the greyhound while it is under the handler's control and promptly notify a steward or the OTV of any welfare concerns.

6.4.5 Race clubs

a) Maintain a sufficient supply of suitable bottled water to enable handlers to provide or replenish water in accordance with this policy.

b) Ensure that water bottles provided for use under this policy comply with the prescribed volume, sealing and supply requirements.

c) Ensure that clean water and functional wash bays are available for post-race cooling and hydration.

d) Ensure that plunge tanks or pools are available, maintained and prepared at the appropriate water temperature where required or as directed by the stewards.

e) Provide suitable kennel infrastructure to enable approved water bowls to be securely affixed within raceday and sampling kennels.

7. Information Privacy Compliance

The department is committed to respecting and protecting individuals' privacy. Under the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (IP Act), the department has obligations regarding the collection, use, storage, and disclosure of personal information. When collecting, handling, or disclosing personal information under this Standard, officers must comply with these obligations and ensure personal information is managed in accordance with the Queensland Privacy Principles (refer to Privacy Compliance Policy).

8. Related and reference documents

- QRIC Adverse Weather Policy
- Appendix 1 – Approved Water Bowls

9. Keywords

QRIC/2026/7497; Greyhound welfare; raceday hydration; water provision; kennelling; post-race care; sampling; cooling; Stewards; on-track veterinarian; handlers; race clubs

10. Review

This policy is reviewed annually or following any substantial changes to relevant requirements or documentation.

11. Approval

COMMISSION POLICY
Approved Catherine Clark Commissioner **Queensland Racing Integrity Commission** Date: 15/10/2026

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Appendix 1 - Approved Water Bowls





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