

Greyhound Industry (Welfare) Regulations 2023

Rásafocht Con Éireann, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 29 of the Greyhound Racing Act 2019 (No. 15 of 2019), after consultation with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation, collective citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Greyhound Industry (Welfare) Regulations 2023.
2. These Regulations come into operation on the day of 2023.

Definitions

3. In these Regulations:

“Act” means the Greyhound Racing Act 2019 (No 15 of 2019).

"race" carries the same meaning as that set out in the Greyhound Industry (Racing) Regulations 2023

"race track" carries the same meaning as that set out in the Greyhound Industry (Racing) Regulations 2023

"trial" carries the same meaning as that set out in the Greyhound Industry (Racing) Regulations 2023

Welfare of Racing greyhounds

4. (1) Whilst a racing greyhound is in the care of an owner, breeder, trainer, or any other person appearing to be in charge of such greyhound, such owner, breeder, trainer, or person in charge, irrespective of the age of the greyhound and of the location at which the greyhound is kept, shall ensure that the health and welfare of the greyhound is maintained, in compliance with the provisions of the Code of Practice for the Care and Welfare of Greyhounds as published from time to time by the Board.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing and subject to the Greyhound Industry (Licensed Trainers) Regulations 2023, the primary responsibility for the care and welfare of a racing greyhound lies with the trainer, whilst the greyhound is in the care of the trainer.

However, where appropriate and notwithstanding a greyhound being in the care of a trainer, the owner and/or breeder and/or person in charge of the greyhound may retain responsibility for breaches of this regulation 4 where, in the reasonable opinion of the Board, the particular circumstances of a case merit the retention of such responsibility.

Disease or Injury

5. (1) Where an authorised officer believes that a greyhound is affected by disease, illness or injury or where an authorised officer reasonably believes that a greyhound may be so affected, the authorised officer may direct the owner, breeder, trainer or person in charge of the greyhound to present the greyhound to a veterinary surgeon.
- (2) An owner, breeder, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound shall comply with the direction of an authorised officer where so instructed pursuant to paragraph (1)
- (3) An owner, breeder, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound, shall present proof of measures taken in respect of health and welfare of a greyhound when requested by an authorised officer.
- (4) An authorised officer, where he/she believes that a greyhound is affected by disease, illness or injury or where he/she reasonably believes that a greyhound may be so affected, may refuse that greyhound entry to or direct the removal of that greyhound from race tracks, trials and public sales.
- (5) An owner, breeder, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound shall comply with the direction of an authorised officer where so instructed pursuant to paragraph (4).

Collection of Levies/Monies

6. The Board may, at its discretion, direct for the collection of levies and monies from greyhound owners for the establishment and administration of funds for the health and welfare of greyhounds, including the allowance of provision for the rehoming of greyhounds, as and when the need arises.

Status of Regulations

7. These regulations constitute racing sanction provisions, a breach of which:
 - (i) constitutes a sanction breach of the Racing code within the meaning of section 2 of the Act; and
 - (ii) may be subject to a racing sanction that may be imposed by the Control Committee and/or the Appeal Committee.

GIVEN under the Seal of Rásaíocht Con Éireann/Greyhound Racing Ireland, this XX day of XXXX, 2023.

Chairman of the Board.

Chief Executive of the Board, an officer authorised by the Board to authenticate the Seal of the Board.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

These Regulations set out the requirements in respect of the welfare of racing greyhounds whilst in the care of an owner, breeder or trainer, obligations and powers in respect of situations involving disease or injury to racing greyhounds and provides for the power on the part of Rásaíocht Con Éireann to direct for the collection of levies and monies from greyhound owners for the establishment of and administration of funds for the health and welfare of greyhounds.