

3 September 2026

Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition

Fiona Murphy
Second Clerk-Assistant
House of Assembly
Parliament of Tasmania

Via email only: fiona.murphy@parliament.tas.gov.au

Re: Questions on Notice – Public hearing

Dear Fiona,

This letter is to provide you with additional information requested on 24 August 2026, specifically in response to the question *“Are you able to share with the Committee your understanding of the different euthanasia policies between different jurisdictions?”*

The RSPCA Australia has not undertaken a full assessment of the differences in euthanasia policies between different jurisdictions. However, in Australia, the Greyhounds Australasia Rules outline minimum standards for euthanasing a greyhound that apply to all jurisdictions (See Appendix One).

While these rules must be complied with nationally, local rules, may vary. For example, under the TasRacing Integrity Unit (TIU) Rules of Racing, additional local rules require:

- an owner to make all reasonable efforts to avoid euthanasia of their greyhound by finding it a suitable long-term home (L22.1)
- an owner must make application to the TIU using the approved form, requesting permission to euthanase a greyhound. For the avoidance of doubt, an application under this sub-rule can only be lodged after the requirements of L22.5 (Minimum Requirements for Rehoming) have been met (L22.2)
- an owner shall not euthanase a greyhound until written approval from the TIU has been received (L22.4).

Exceptions to L22.1 and 22.2 include medical reasons verified by a veterinary certificate or the greyhound being legally required to be euthanased (e.g., Court order). In addition, if GAP, or another person(s) approved by the TIU, deems a greyhound unsuitable for rehoming, the owner may apply to the TIU for permission to euthanase the greyhound. This may be due to behavioural characteristics that negatively impact on its suitability as

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a pet, including aggression towards humans and/or other animals. This creates an issue because the decision pathway remains within the racing industry's own structures, rather than requiring independent animal welfare assessment or external oversight.

Unlike some other jurisdictions, Tasmanian rules do not appear to specify how far in advance approval must be sought, creating uncertainty about whether the process allows sufficient time for review, intervention or alternative rehoming options. For example, Greyhound Racing Victoria require a Notice of Intent to Euthanase at least 14 days before a greyhound is euthanased.

In summary, RSPCA Australia has not undertaken a full assessment of euthanasia policies across all jurisdictions. However, the available examples indicate that policies vary, with some jurisdictions adopting more prescriptive procedural safeguards than others. RSPCA Australia considers that the national rules should be strengthened and made more prescriptive to ensure consistent minimum standards are applied across all jurisdictions, including clear requirements for independent oversight, periods for greyhounds to wind down from racing, documented rehoming efforts, independent behavioural assessments and minimum timeframes for review before euthanasia is approved.

Thank you again for considering RSPCA Tasmania and Australia's joint submission and for inviting us to appear before the Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Mussell
CEO, RSPCA Australia

Appendix One

GA Rule 22 Notification of retirement, euthanasia, or other death of a greyhound

- (1) At any time after the result of service pursuant to rule 71, the owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time must notify the Controlling Body where the greyhound is domiciled in writing:
 - (a) within 10 days, if that greyhound has been retired as a pet, been transferred to an adoption program, or been exported or surrendered to another agency;
 - (b) within 10 days if that greyhound has been humanely euthanased by a veterinarian, and it is a mandatory requirement under the Rules to include a veterinary certificate of euthanasia when lodging the relevant documentation for any greyhound that has been euthanased by that veterinarian;
 - (c) as soon as possible and prior to disposal of the greyhound, where a greyhound otherwise becomes deceased (including suddenly or unexpectedly), and the owner or person responsible for the greyhound must provide the Controlling Body with information detailing the circumstances giving rise to the death, to the satisfaction of the Controlling Body.
- (2) Within 24 hours of notification in accordance with subrule 22(1)(c) the Stewards or an officer of a Controlling Body may direct that the owner or person responsible for the greyhound release the body of the deceased greyhound to allow a necropsy to be performed by a veterinarian.
- (3) A Controlling Body may require a person to provide information it thinks fit in relation to the health, location, transfer, lifecycle, and/or death of a greyhound.
- (4) An offence is committed and a person may be penalised if an owner or person responsible for a greyhound at the relevant time fails to comply with any provision of this rule, rule 34 or rule 37, or provides false or misleading information in relation to any aspect of this rule, rule 34 or rule 37.
- (5) A greyhound may be allowed to return to greyhound racing after it has been retired in accordance with these Rules, if it has met the following conditions:
 - (a) it has not competed in an Event or trial within 28 days of being retired; 22
 - (b) a certificate from a veterinarian is produced to the satisfaction of the Stewards, stating at the time of the examination, the greyhound is fit to start;
 - (c) written reasons as to why the greyhound is coming out of retirement, have been provided to the satisfaction of the Stewards or an officer of a Controlling Body; and
 - (d) it has completed a satisfactory trial.
- (6) A person who fails to comply with any of the subrules of this rule may:
 - (a) be suspended until the person provides the relevant information, or until some other time; and/or
 - (b) otherwise may be penalised.

Also, under GA Rule 31B (k) Restricted Practices, an offence is committed if a person, who is not a veterinarian, does, attempts to do, or causes to be done, any euthanasia of a greyhound. Euthanasia must be performed by an overdose of barbiturate administered by a veterinarian, except if emergency euthanasia is required, which must only be done by an appropriate person under the direction of a veterinarian.