

GRNZ Rehoming Policy: FAQs

June 2024

1. Who does this Policy apply to?

The Policy applies to all Licensed Persons (LPs) and all greyhounds which are registered with GRNZ and domiciled in New Zealand i.e. they live in New Zealand, with a person who is an LP in New Zealand.

2. Why do we need a Rehoming Policy?

The Policy lays out the expectations of LPs for rehoming greyhounds in their care, including providing information on the options for rehoming greyhounds, and the responsibilities of LPs during the rehoming process. This ensures that everyone understands their obligations and is able to navigate rehoming with ease.

3. Who pays for the desexing and dental treatments required?

GRNZ continues to provide a financial subsidy to support the desexing and dental treatments for greyhounds prior to rehoming. These can be paid directly to approved veterinarians or LPs can pay the account and claim this back from GRNZ, by forwarding the veterinary invoice, receipt and refund details to accounts@grnz.co.nz.

4. What is a 'dental waiver'?

Under the new GRNZ Welfare Standards, greyhounds require an annual veterinary examination, including a dental examination to be performed, and dental treatments to be done where necessary. This means that not all greyhounds examined at the time of desexing will require dental treatments. The veterinarian performing the desexing will need to sign a waiver to say that the greyhound does not require dental treatment at this time, or provide dental treatment to greyhounds requiring this, prior to rehoming. This allows flexibility and reduces unnecessary treatments.

5. How do we assess greyhounds prior to private rehoming?

GRNZ has developed information to assist LPs with home assessments. This is a risk-based approach aimed to eliminate the risks of a greyhound which is predatory in nature. Accordingly, any greyhound who doesn't recognise other dogs as dogs, but sees them as prey, or greyhounds who might be prone to anxiety or aggression, are not rehomed directly into the community but have an opportunity to go via Great Mates for extra preparation.

Importantly, LPs will be asked to sign a declaration around the greyhounds suitability for rehoming. This will be an online form that is completed declaring the greyhounds behavioural traits and nature.

Two additional online resources will also be available to assist with private rehoming. These are a document to help match a greyhound to the right family and a new owner's book.

6. What is the process for completing the 'Private Rehome Declaration'?

GRNZ has further enhanced the information collected when a private rehome takes place. When the greyhound is deregistered, information will need to be completed around where the greyhound is going. The new owner's details, including name, address and contact information will need to be provided to GRNZ. At the same time the greyhound's behavioural history form will need to be completed. A check box for both forms will be available online.

Greyhounds cannot be privately rehomed without this process being completed. Once completed, the information is then passed onto those that need it, and the declaration confirmed to the person carrying out the deregistration via a confirmation email.

7. What is the new provision about unsuitable rehoming options in the Policy?

The intent of rehoming a greyhound is that it has an opportunity to find a pet home for the balance of its life.

Preventing certain activities with greyhounds cements our commitment to rehome greyhounds as pets and not into a life where they are expected to provide a 'service' for humans, which may be difficult or challenging for them or where we cannot guarantee a good quality of life for them post-racing.

This does not mean that greyhounds cannot be accepted into assistance dog roles or similar, for example, providing aged-care comfort or PTSD and trauma counselling support services. In these roles, dogs are normally cared for as pets and 'work' sporadically. This would be considered acceptable and would be on an individual case basis.

Further consultation with the NZVA will be undertaken in respect of providing plasma or blood to private veterinarians for live-saving blood transfusions.