DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD OFF-LEASH GREYHOUND EVENTS: GUIDELINES FOR COUNCILS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Government of South Australia
Dog and Cat Management Board

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Acknowledgements

Prepared by **Fiona De Rosa**, Balancing Act Adelaide | pet-friendly planning, January 2020

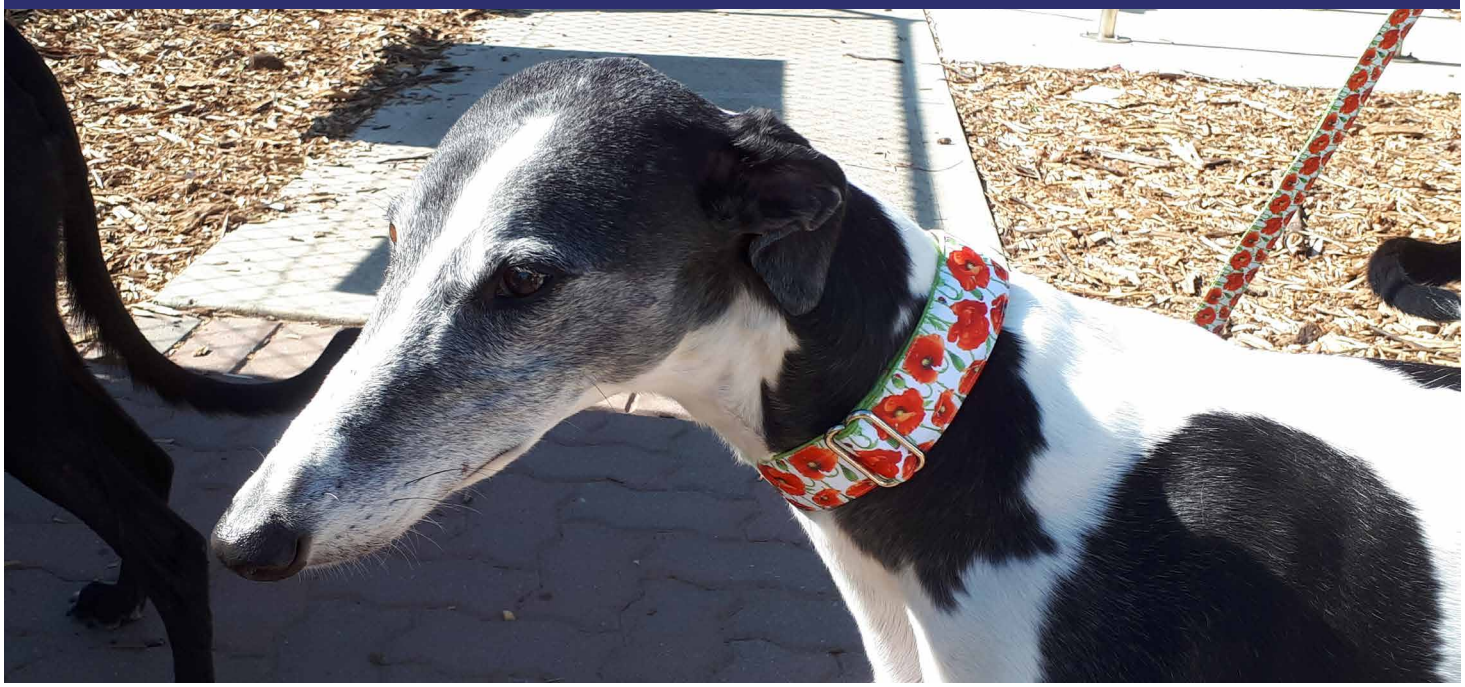
This document has been prepared in consultation with the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) SA.

The Dog and Cat Management Board would like to thank Alexandrina Council and the City of West Torrens for sharing their experience in undertaking off-leash greyhound events.

Photography

Photos provided by Fiona De Rosa, City of West Torrens and Alexandrina Council.

1 Introduction



Why do we need the Guidelines?

Under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act), greyhounds must be on-leash at all times in a public place including a fenced dog park. However, the Act does enable the Dog and Cat Management Board (Board) to exempt councils from this requirement, subject to appropriate conditions.

As more greyhounds transition from racing dogs to family pets, it's likely there will be growing interest from councils and the wider community for greyhound off-leash opportunities in local areas.

In 2018/19, the Board granted exemptions to the Alexandrina Council and the City of West Torrens to undertake greyhound off-leash trials in fenced dog parks. As part of the conditions, councils were required to work with the Greyhound Adoption Program SA (GAP SA) in the planning of the trial and managing the risks.

Through this process, GAP SA observed the trials and provided feedback to the Board about the types of issues associated with greyhound off-leash events. The Board is now working with GAP SA to facilitate the roll out of additional greyhound off-leash events in a coordinated manner across South Australia.

This document has been prepared to guide councils on the issues that need to be considered in relation to greyhound off-leash events and the conditions that need to be met in order to apply for an exemption from the Board.

About the Guidelines

These guidelines are written to assist councils in preparing for and supervising greyhound off-leash events and are divided into the following sections:

Context

Background information on greyhound restrictions in South Australia and a summary of the sections of the Act relevant to greyhounds.

Exemption process

Key processes that councils must follow in planning for a greyhound off-leash event including working with GAP SA, and obtaining an exemption from the Board.

Preparing for a greyhound event

Key elements that councils will need to address in planning for a greyhound off-leash event.

Event terms and conditions

Terms and conditions that councils must incorporate in their greyhound off-leash event.

Case studies

Case studies of Alexandrina Council and the City of West Torrens greyhound off-leash trials in South Australia.

Resources

Useful links, posters, and resources on dog park safety, including greyhound body language and good dog park etiquette.

2 Context

Greyhounds in South Australia [1]

In 2018/19, there were **5,409** registered greyhounds in South Australia including:

1,685 Greyhound Racing SA (GRSA) dogs

3,724 Pet greyhounds

The councils with the highest numbers of pet greyhounds are listed below.

Council area	No. of registered pet greyhounds	No. of total dog registrations
City of Port Adelaide	361	15,832
City of Onkaparinga	347	31,249
City of Tea Tree Gully	235	16,914
City of Salisbury	218	29,946
City of Charles Sturt	203	14,695
City of Marion	202	12,492
City of Playford	172	15,470
Mount Barker District Council	139	7,926

Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

Leashing laws

In South Australia, it is a legal requirement under the Act (section 45C) that all greyhounds be on-leash, at all times, when away from private property.

This requirement applies to any public place including designated off-leash areas and fenced dog parks. This legislation overrides any council by-law permitting dogs to be off-leash, unless an exemption has been approved by the Board.

Exemption

Councils can apply for an exemption under section 80A of the Act to undertake a greyhound off-leash event in a public place such as a fenced dog park.

Authorised persons

Councils' authorised persons are trained in animal management, and are best placed to supervise the greyhound off-leash events to ensure they are well managed. An authorised person will need to be in attendance at greyhound events in a supervisory role, and may be required to intervene if the event terms and conditions are not followed by attendees.

They also have the power to issue expiation notices and give directions regarding the management of dogs.

[1] Data has been provided by the Board from the Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) database.

Benefits and challenges

There are a number of benefits and challenges in providing off-leash opportunities for pet greyhounds in public places.

Benefits

The greyhound events provide opportunities for:

- Pet greyhounds to exercise off-leash
- Greyhound owners to socialise with other like-minded people
- Greyhound owners to be educated about the legal requirements for greyhounds in SA
- General public to be educated about pet greyhounds and the legal requirement to keep them on-leash in a public place at all times
- Ex-race greyhounds to enjoy a supportive environment in their transition to becoming a family pet
- Social connections to be developed within the wider community, such as the establishment of greyhound walking groups or meet ups.

Challenges

The greyhound event may face several challenges, including:

- Greyhounds running at high speeds and colliding with other dogs, people and objects [2]
- Negative public perception from other dog owners that an exclusive event for greyhounds takes away from their time accessing the fenced dog park
- People with other breeds turning up on the day and being asked to come back at another time
- Participants not abiding by the event terms and conditions
- Activities outside the fenced dog park triggering greyhounds to run.

With planning, supervision, and clear instructions to greyhound owners and other dog owners, these risks can be minimised but not entirely mitigated.

[2] Greyhounds can reach a speed of 45 mph (72km/h) within its first 6 strides from a standing start (Psychology Today, 2009).

3 Exemption process

There are two key steps in the exemption process. The first step is to work with GAP SA in the early stages of the exemption process for advice and recommended actions, and the second is to seek an exemption from the Board.

Implementing GAP SA recommended actions will be a condition of an exemption in every case.

Step 1 – Work with GAP SA and submit notification

Councils will be required to work with GAP SA and should contact them **immediately**, once a decision to hold an event is made. Council must then submit a notification form, including a risk assessment to GAP SA at least eight weeks prior to the event. The GAP SA notification form is available from the Board's website.

It is recommended that these guidelines are read thoroughly before submitting a notification form, including the preparation checklist to the right.

GAP SA will undertake an assessment including a site visit to the fenced dog park nominated by council, where they will conduct their own assessment of potential risks and provide recommended actions.

Recommended actions may include:

- Specifying the maximum number of pet greyhounds per individual event
- Erecting a screen along the dog park fence line, such as shade cloth, which provides screening from adjacent activities which may trigger greyhounds to run
- Removing old balls and rubbish from the fenced dog park prior to each event
- Providing padding around park furniture such as seating, and other obstacles which greyhounds may run into
- Closing down an adjacent dog park for the duration of the event.

GAP SA will also visit and monitor off-leash greyhound events within each council area during the exemption period. The number of monitoring visits will be negotiated between GAP SA and the individual council.

GAP SA is entitled to recover the costs of assessment and monitoring of events directly from councils.

Alterations or upgrades to the dog park

Councils will be required to notify GAP SA if any alterations or upgrades such as the installation of new benches, drinking fountains and other park furniture are made to the fenced dog park after receiving an exemption.

Preparation checklist

This checklist has been prepared to assist councils with the GAP SA notification process. The following information will be required:

Council details

- ☐ Council name
- ☐ Contact person
- ☐ Contact number
- ☐ Email address

Greyhound event details

- ☐ Name of fenced dog park for greyhound off-leash event
- ☐ Address of fenced dog park
- ☐ Size of fenced dog park for greyhound off-leash event
- ☐ Proposed number of greyhounds per individual event (e.g. twelve dogs per event), and how this will be monitored i.e. with registrations on the council website, and council supervision on the day of the event
- ☐ Frequency of event (e.g. monthly)
- ☐ Format of event (e.g. two, forty-five minute events)
- ☐ Parking availability (e.g. on/off-street parking)

Dog park layout and surrounds

- ☐ Adjacent activities near fenced dog park, including timings of any sports activities
- ☐ Open area/s for dogs to run
- ☐ Furniture or obstacles in fenced dog park
- ☐ Aerial map of the fenced dog park and surrounds (e.g. Google map or Nearmap)

Other event details

- ☐ How many staff will be present at each individual event as supervisors
- ☐ Potential risks and how they will be managed. Council to attach their event risk assessment to the notification For examples, refer to the Alexandrina Council final report 'Greyhound Hour Trial Report, 2019 and Appendix A.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Board via dcmb@sa.gov.au or (08) 8124 4962.

GAP SA Green Collar

Step 2 – Exemption from the Board

Councils will be required to obtain a formal exemption from the Board to allow greyhound off-leash events in fenced dog parks. The Board exemption form is available from the Board website at **www.dogandcatboard.com.au**

The Board may provide councils with an exemption for greyhound off-leash events subject to any conditions specified such as:

- Council must adhere to GAP SA recommendations during the entire period of exemption
- Council must comply with the Board event terms and conditions (refer to section 5)
- Council staff will be responsible for the supervision of the greyhound off-leash events. At least two authorised officers must be present at all times
- The exemption applies only to the fenced dog park nominated and assessed by GAP SA
- All incidents at the event must be reported to the Board. An incident may include: an injury to a person and/or dog, having to ask someone to leave due to inappropriate behaviour, or expiation issued inside or outside the fenced dog park. If unsure, please contact the Board.
- The Board may revoke the exemption at any stage.

Greyhounds off-leash events

What greyhounds are suitable?

A greyhound off-leash event is suitable for pet greyhounds that have a **muzzle exemption** from the following:

- The Board (i.e. an exemption card); and/or
- GAP SA (i.e. a green collar)

What greyhounds are unsuitable?

A greyhound off-leash event is **unsuitable** for:

- Greyhounds in foster care. Under GAP SA's *'Foster Care Agreement'* greyhounds in foster care are not permitted to visit a fenced dog park at any time
- Greyhound mix breeds
- Greyhounds without a muzzle exemption.

4 Preparing for a greyhound event

Each fenced dog park has unique conditions, and dogs may interact differently as a response. Off-leash greyhound events are no different.

For example, some dogs were quite active at the greyhound off-leash trials, while other dogs were much quieter. An important factor that influenced the greyhound's behavior was the adjacent activities, in particular the presence of other dogs near the fence line.

It is important to appreciate that while a greyhound off-leash event may be successful in one fenced dog park, a similar event may not work so well in another park because of the park size, layout and adjacent activities.

The success of a greyhound event depends on good preparation which includes a detailed assessment of the park's unique conditions, and developing a sound management plan.

The following list of key issues has been prepared to assist councils in preparing for a greyhound event.

1 Undertake a site assessment

An assessment of a fenced dog park will need to consider the size, layout, and activities adjacent to the park.

- Does the park have a suitable open area for greyhounds to run around?
- Are there any obstacles in the open areas that dogs might run into such as park furniture, lamp posts and/or dog tunnels and other equipment?
- If there are different areas for large and small dogs, will both areas of the dog park be available for the event?
- How will you manage adjacent activities that may incite the greyhounds to run? This might include erecting shade cloth on the common fence line to screen the adjoining activities.

Essential

Find a fenced dog park with an open area free of obstacles and park furniture such as seats, lamp posts and dog equipment

- If there are obstacles or park furniture in the open area that dogs could potentially run into, council may be required to install soft padding/foam around the park furniture.

2 Decide on the format

Consideration needs to be given to the frequency and duration of the greyhound events e.g. monthly with 2 sessions at 45 minutes each.

We observed in the previous greyhound trials that the greyhounds tired around the forty minute mark.

Preferable

Shorter events, approximately forty-five minutes.

- However, the format may also depend on factors such as staff resources, location (metro/rural), and distance to travel for dog owners.

3 Determine the maximum number of dogs per event

One of the key factors in preparing for a greyhound off-leash event is to determine the maximum number of greyhounds per individual event. This number will be informed by the park size, layout and adjacent activities, and advice from GAP SA.

Essential

The maximum number of greyhounds per individual event will be determined by GAP SA in consultation with each council

4 Prepare a web page with event information and a registration form

A booking system is required to register participants and track the number of greyhounds per event. It is important that an email address and phone number are included on the form so that council can communicate with registrants.

The Board event terms and conditions outlined in section 5 must also be easily accessible for registrants. They are an important element in the management of greyhound off-leash events, and must be used by all councils undertaking these events.

Councils will need to include the terms and conditions as part of the registration process so that dog owners are aware of their responsibilities prior to the event.

It is a requirement that all participants read and understand the terms and conditions before they register for an event.

Councils will also need to enforce the terms and conditions on the day of the event.

Essential

- **Develop a booking system for registrations and cancellations**
- **Councils must use the Board event terms and conditions**
- **Councils must incorporate the event terms and conditions as part of the booking system**

5 Arrange council supervision for the event

The events are to be supervised by council staff and at least two authorised officers must be present at all times.

Staff must wear hi-vis jackets so participants can easily identify the event supervisors.

The key areas for supervision include:

Check-in

A check-in area located near the main entry/exit gate. At the check-in area, a council supervisor will be required to:

- Sign-off participants and their dogs
- Sight the muzzle exemption—no exemption, no entry
- Remind dog owners of the event terms and conditions.

Inside supervision

- Behaviours inside the park will require monitoring, such as interactions between dogs, their owners and other participants
- Council staff will need to ensure dog owners adhere to the event terms and conditions
- Council staff may be required to intervene if necessary, for the safety of the dogs and people. Behaviours that may require intervention include people throwing balls and inciting dogs to run.

Outside supervision

- Council staff will need to monitor activities outside the fenced dog park, such as keeping other dogs away from the fence line, as this may trigger greyhounds to run.
- Depending on the fenced dog park setting, council staff may wish to redirect people to an alternative route/path away from the fence line or erect signage encouraging other dog owners to stay away from the fence line during greyhound events.

Refer to Appendix B for a summary of supervisory responsibilities.

Essential

Council staff must supervise events and have at least two authorised officers present at all times

6 Prepare and erect signage

Signage should be placed in and around the fenced dog park well in advance of the greyhound event/s. This serves two purposes; to notify other dog owners about the greyhound event/s and the fenced dog park closure during those times, and as a key marketing tool for promoting the event to greyhound owners.

Key messages to convey on the signage include:

- Dates and times of the greyhound events.
- Where people can register or find more information, and that bookings are essential.
- Notification that the fenced dog park will be closed for all other dogs during greyhound only events.

Essential

Prepare and erect signage in highly visible locations on the dog park fence and/or in the immediate vicinity of the park

7 Develop a hot weather procedure

If the weather forecast is predicted to be 32°C or higher on the day of the event according to the Bureau of Meteorology, the event must be cancelled or rescheduled to avoid dogs suffering from heat stress and/or stroke.

Council needs to communicate to all registrants if the event is cancelled.

Essential

- **Cancel event if temperature predicted to exceed 32°C**
- **Pre-prepare cancellation communications via email and SMS to registrants**

8 Clean up the park

Before each event, council will be required to remove any old balls and other objects that could be used to incite greyhounds to run.

After each event the organisers should remove any screening along the fence or padding around furniture installed prior to the event, in preparation for the fenced dog park returning to its normal use.

Essential

- **Clean up the fenced dog park and remove old balls and other objects before each event**
- **Pack down the fenced dog park and open to general community**

Refer to Appendix C for a **Greyhound off-leash event planning checklist**.

Top 10 tips for greyhound events

Dog Owners

1. Keep a photo of your muzzle exemption on your phone
2. Foster greyhounds are not allowed at this event
3. Walk around the park with your greyhound rather than congregating in one spot
4. Meet and greet other dogs one at a time rather than in a group
5. Stay alert and focused on your dog at all times
6. Don't encourage your dog to run

Council

7. Use one entry/exit gate for the event and close off other gates
8. Ensure participants know the terms and conditions before registering for an event
9. Bookings are essential
10. Success is in the preparation

5 Event terms and conditions

The event terms and conditions must be applied by all councils undertaking a greyhound off-leash event.

General rules

- All owners **must provide evidence of the greyhound muzzle exemption when entering** the fenced dog park
- Strictly **no foster greyhounds** are allowed
- Strictly **no other dog breeds** are allowed including **no mixed breeds**
- Strictly **no ball games** or other activities that may incite greyhounds to run
- Dogs **must wear a collar at all times** in case owners have to attach a leash quickly
- Owners **must supervise their dogs at all times**. If an owner isn't paying attention to their own dog, **council has the right to ask them to leave**
- Children are to be supervised by an adult at all times

At your own risk

- The organisers of the event **cannot be held responsible for any injuries or infections to people and/or dogs**
- **Greyhound owners are to take full responsibility for their dogs during the event and must keep their dogs under effective control at all times**

Good etiquette

- **It's recommended that greyhounds are initially muzzled**, and owners should allow their greyhound/s off-leash and unmuzzle them at their own risk.
- If a greyhound is **showing signs of fear and stress**, the owner should collect their **dog and leave** (Refer to Resources — recognising fear and stress in greyhounds).
- **Owners should identify their greyhound/s with a bandana** or something similar so they are easily distinguished from other greyhounds.
- **Owners should walk around the park with their greyhound/s rather than congregating in one area of the park.**
- Owners should **bring their own water supply and poo bags** for their greyhound/s.

6 Case study 1

Alexandrina Council, SA - The Greyhound Hour

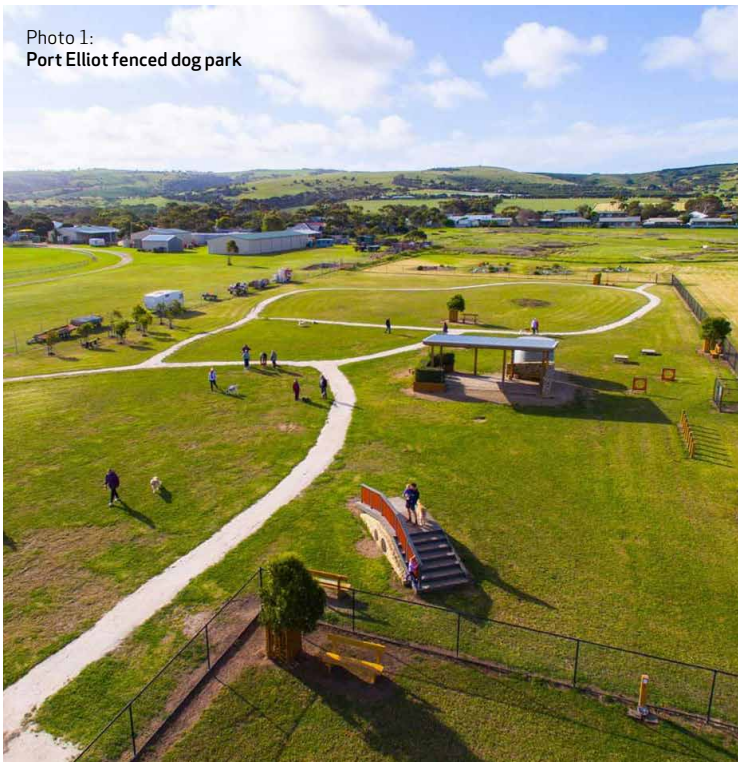


Photo 1:
Port Elliot fenced dog park

Alexandrina was the first council in South Australia to obtain an exemption from the Board to undertake a greyhound off-leash trial.

The council held monthly events on the second Sunday of each month from 10-11am, for a period of six months. During these times both sections (i.e. large and small areas) of the Port Elliot fenced dog park were used for the event. The large area is approximately 6,000 m^2 containing a large open area, free of park furniture and other amenities. The small area, approximately 1,600 m^2, was available if people required a calmer environment for their dogs.

The maximum number of dogs per individual event was capped at forty greyhounds. The events were supervised by the Alexandrina Council community safety officers.

Key features

Exemption	Board exemption
Trial period	Six month trial (January-June 2019)
Format	Sixty minute session
Fenced dog park	Port Elliot Dog Park, Port Elliot Large area – 6,000 m^2 Small area – 1,600 m^2
Parking	Off-street parking was available
Dogs per session	Forty greyhounds per session based on advice from GAP SA
Booking system	Online booking system included registrations and cancellations. Part of registration process included reading the terms and conditions. Participants were asked to sign off the terms and conditions prior to entry at the park
Check-in	Check in area was located near the main entry/exit gate
Signage	Signage was attached to the main gate and fencing
Promotion	Promotion to greyhound owners and general community was made via the council website, Facebook, advertisement in local papers, signage at the park and on TV screens in council's library. The Friends of the Port Elliot Dog Park promoted the events on their Facebook page
Coffee voucher	Vouchers were given to dog owners who were unaware of the greyhound event and wanted to use the fenced dog park at the time of the event
Final report	Greyhound Hour Trial Report 2019, includes a risk assessment, survey results of participants, lessons learnt and insights. This report is available from Alexandrina Council.
Contact	Town of Alexandrina David Heath, Senior Community Safety Officer (08) 8555 7000

Alexandrina Council, SA - The Greyhound Hour

Photo 2: **Sign on main entry/exit gate of fenced dog park**

Photo 3:
Coffee voucher

Insights

Buffer around park

"There was an incident where a person was walking their dogs off-leash close to the perimeter fence outside the dog park, which triggered a group of around ten greyhounds to run to the fence. Once the dogs outside were contained, the greyhound's excitement reduced"

(Greyhound owner and attendee).

The stakeholders suggested that a buffer be provided around the fence line e.g. a couple of witches' hats and bunting with a sign **'NO dogs beyond this point'** and/or redirect visitors to an alternative walking route (Council minutes, 16/01/2019).

Dog Park rules

One of the first park rules to be introduced was **NO throwing of balls.**

"These dogs actually chase. Some might remember the chasing mode and their natural instinct is to chase. When they are running beside each other they may have little nips at the dog next to them. Need to avoid this activity. Do not have balls in the area, particularly due to the large number of dogs present and not knowing their personalities. These are the situations where things can escalate quick quickly."

(Council minutes, 16/01/2019).

Which greyhound is mine!

Some people identified their greyhounds with a bandana, bow or similar. When the greyhounds were in a large group, it was hard to distinguish whose dog belonged to whom. It's a good idea to ID the dogs in some way.

6 Case study 2

City of West Torrens, SA - Greyhound Day at Dog Park

Photo4:
West Torrens Dog park. Park in background was used for the greyhound trial

The City of West Torrens was the first metropolitan council to conduct a greyhound off-leash trial in SA.

They held monthly sessions on the last Sunday of each month from June to November 2019, comprising two sessions:

- 9.30am – 10.30am
- 10.45am – 11.45am

The park was closed from 9.00am – 12.00pm to include adequate time for set up and pack down.

The large exercise area of the West Torrens Dog Park was used for the event, and the small dog area remained open to the general community.

The maximum number of dogs per session was originally capped at twenty. Based on advice from GAP SA the number of dogs reduced to fifteen per session. The sessions were supervised by animal management staff from the City of West Torrens.

As the small dog area remained opened, GAP SA recommended they erect shade cloth on the common fence line to obscure other dog activities from the greyhounds. Council also placed foam around the park furniture i.e. seats and lamp posts, on the recommendation of GAP SA.

Key features

Exemption	Board exemption
Trial period	Six-month trial (June – November 2019)
Format	Two sixty minute sessions
Fenced dog park	West Torrens Dog Park, Moss Ave., Kurralta Park. Large dog area used for greyhound events (approx. 2,500 m^2)
Parking	On-street parking
Dogs per session	Initially twenty greyhounds per session, but reduced to fifteen based on advice from GAP SA
Booking system	Online booking system (Planyo). Event terms and conditions were included on the booking page
Check-in	Check in area located near the main entry gate
Signage	Signs attached to main entry gate and left up over the six-month trial
Promotion	Promotion of event to greyhound owners and general community via Council's website, Facebook, advertisement in local Messenger and signage at the dog park
Reporst	Monthly reports summarising event and areas for improvements
Contact	City of West Torrens Deborah Ellis-Paterson, Team Leader Compliance, (08) 8416 6263

6 Case study 2

City of West Torrens, SA - Greyhound Day at Dog Park

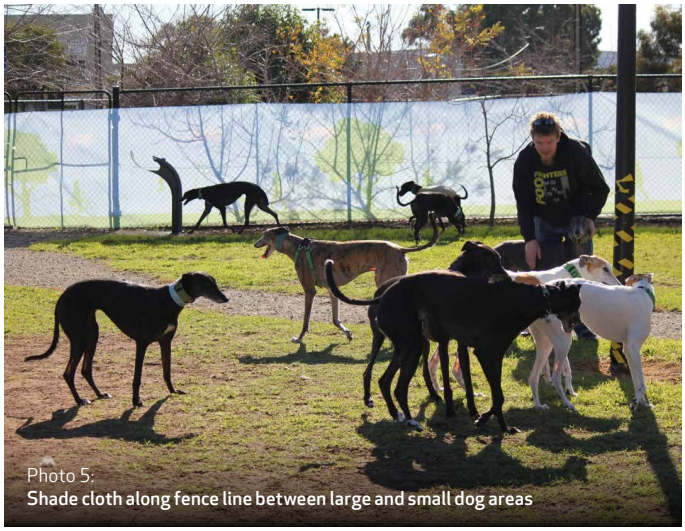


Photo 5:
Shade cloth along fence line between large and small dog areas

Photo 6:
Signage on main entry/exit gate of fenced dog park

Insights

Check-in area

"One at a time, I would let the owners and greyhounds pass through the first gate. In the air lock, I would ask the following questions and inform them of the event rules before letting them in the park:

- Do you have a booking for today?
- Do you have an exemption card and can I please see it? If they didn't have their card, they were not allowed into the park. I explained it was part of the terms and conditions of the greyhound event.
- No throwing of balls or any other objects, and do not to excite the dogs at any time.
- If your dog looks like it's getting anxious or there are any issues, please put them back on their leash."

(source, City of West Torrens monthly reports).

Set up

On the Friday before the event, staff attached the screening to the fence between the small and large dog areas.

Three staff members arrived at the park on Sunday at 9.00am to:

- Place foam barriers around the edges of the wooden benches
- Collect balls, large sticks and rubbish
- Place cones and signage on the closed gates directing people to the main gate for entry, and wrapped yellow and black caution tape around two light poles in the park. (source, City of West Torrens monthly reports).

Supervision

One officer stood in the park at all times observing the goings on and the other officer stood outside the park, patrolling the area and answering any questions that were asked about the event. All staff wore hi-vis vests (source, City of West Torrens monthly reports).

7 Resources

Some free downloads, posters and handouts are included below to help councils educate dog owners on good dog park etiquette and recognise signs of fear and stress in greyhounds.

How to use the resources

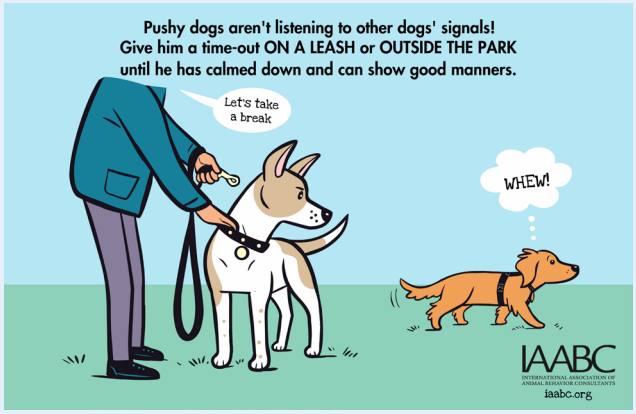
Councils may use these educational resources on their webpage, as a handout, on social media platforms and/or as a sign in the dog park.

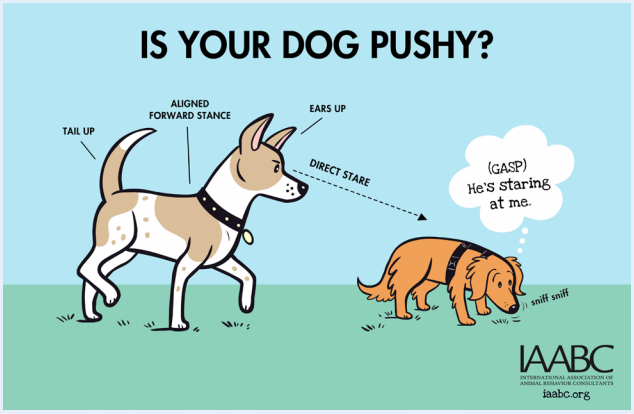
Dog Park Safety Project

This project is by The International Association of Animal Behaviour Consultants (IAABC)

The Dog Park Safety Project provides a series of posters to promote safety in dog parks and in dog play. Drawings by Lili Chin.

Download poster here: https://m.iaabc.org/resources/dog-posters/



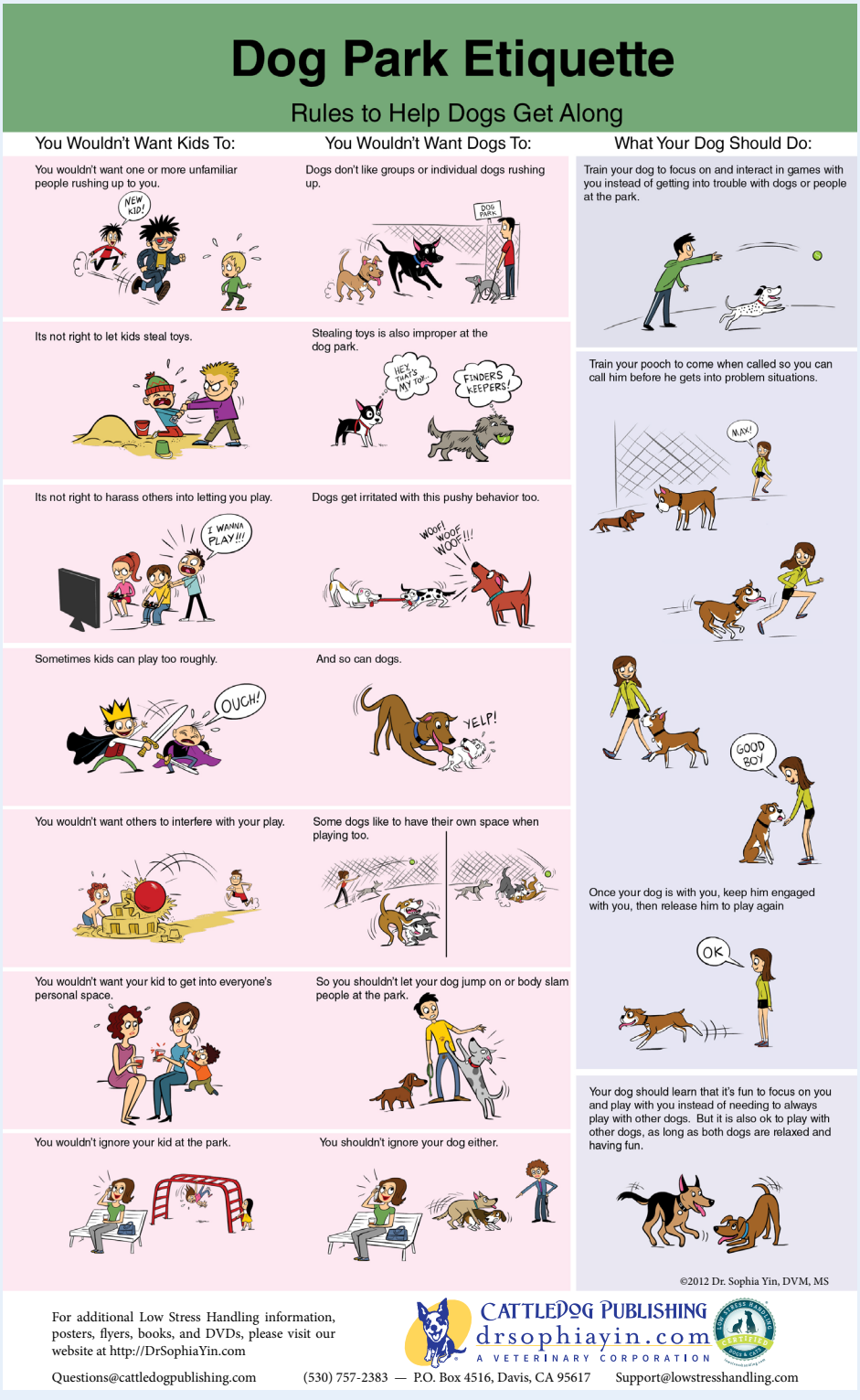


Dog Park Etiquette: Rules to help dogs get along

Cattle Dog Publishing

This is a free poster from Dr. Sophia Yin's website. It shows the basic rules to keep your dog out of trouble in a fenced dog park.

Download poster here: http://info.drsophiayin.com/dog-park-etiquette-poster



Dog Body Language

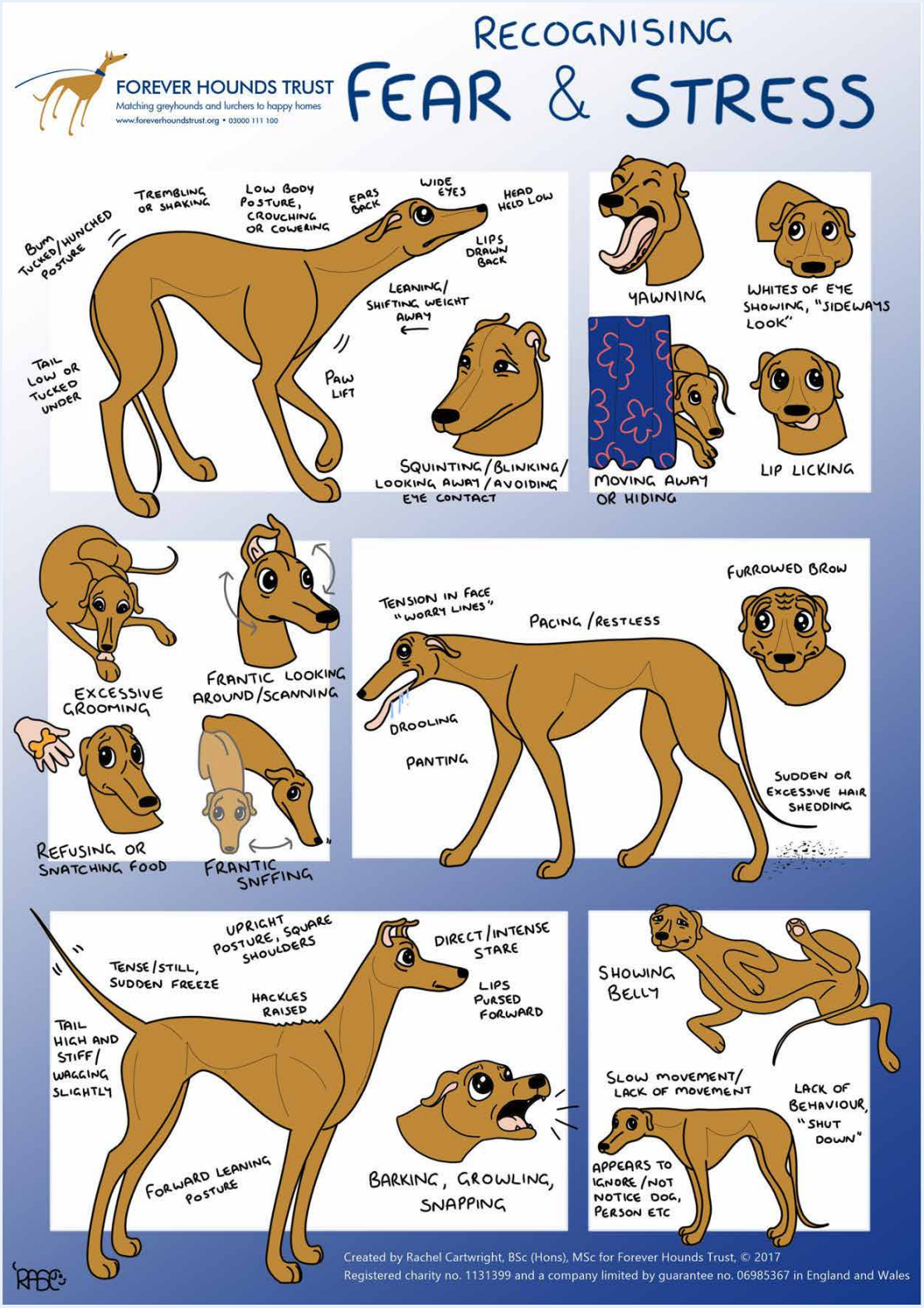
Lili Chin has produced a poster on basic dog body language.

Download poster here: https://www.doggiedrawings.net/freeposters

Recognising Fear and Stress in dogs

Rachel Cartwright (2017) has created an illustrated guide on the common and more subtle signs of fear and stress in dogs for the Forever Hounds Trust (UK).

Download poster here: https://foreverhoundstrust.org/hound-advice/advice-and-support/



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GAP SA (2019) Foster Care Agreement.

Alexandrina Council (2019) The Greyhound Hour Trial Report, prepared by Balancing Act Adelaide. Report available from Alexandrina Council.

City of West Torrens (2019) Greyhound Trial documentation, monthly reports.

Psychology Today (2009) Could dogs be the fastest animals in the World, August 18, by Stanely Coren. www.psychologytoday.com/au/blog/canine-corner/200908/could-dogs-be-the-fastest-land-animals-in-the-world

Appendix A

City of West Torrens internal risk assessment form

Status	Complete
What issue are you looking to assess?	
1	Possible injury or poor behaviour by dogs or their owners by allowing greyhounds to be unleashed for an hour once a month at Moss Ave Dog Park trial
What might cause your issue to occur?	
1	Greyhounds run at speed and there are 2 benches and the odd stone in the garden beds in the park that they could hit
2	Greyhounds are hard to identify so if there was up to 20 (recommended by GAPSA), the owners may loose sight of their dog
3	Greyhound legislation does not allow them off leash so they could get excitable by being off leash
4	Greyhound like to chase objects so if someone threw a ball it would chase it
5	Greyhound owners are restricted by legislation and excitement at meeting other owners may distract their attention from their dog
6	The dogs may escape from the park
7	The weather can hit high temperatures in Adelaide and greyhounds can dehydrate very quickly which would harm the dog
8	Another dog could attack a dog in the park
9	Other dog owners could enter the dog park
10	More than 20 greyhounds may turn up for the event
11	Owners may act inappropriately to other owners, dogs of staff

Status	Complete
What are the consequences if nothing is done?	
1	Injury caused to dog when hitting an object
2	Reputation damage
3	Financial claims
4	Dog attacks
5	Disgruntled owners
6	Dog and Cat Management Board could revoke exemption
7	Dog could escape
How is the issue likely to impact on the CWT? Choose the category with the biggest impact	Reputation Damage
What other impacts may occur ?	• Financial Impact • Organisational or Customer Impact • WHS (Injuries etc)
Using the Consequence descriptions how big an issue would it be for the City of West Torrens?	Moderate Problem
If you were to do nothing to stop the risk issue from occurring how likely would it be to happen?	Likely (75-95% % chance of it happening)
What things do you have in place to control the risk?- tick all that apply.	• Qualified and well-trained staff • Appropriate supervision

Status	Complete
What else (not listed above) do you do to stop the issue occurring?	
1	the edge of the two benches to be covered with sponge
2	Education and direction to be given by Compliance Officers to owners of dogs in briefing before entering the park
3	Compliance Officers present during the event
4	There is a 6ft high fence which secures the whole park area
5	The large dog park will be closed to other dog owners
6	The weather would be monitored two days before the event and if over 32c the event would be cancelled
7	There will be a booking in system on line to manage the numbers - not to exceed 20 so owners not booked in will be declined
8	A set of rules which the owners must adhere to -briefed by Compliance Officers before entering the park and monitored during event
9	No balls / object be allowed in the park
10	Dogs to wear something identifiable so owners can recognise them
11	Owners to bring poo bags to clean up after their dog
12	Water is supplied in the park but owners can bring their own
13	Signs displayed in the park advertising event and closing the park to greyhounds
14	Media promoting the event before the trial so community aware
15	Small dog park to be opened for all dogs during the event
16	If dogs behaviour changes, dog to go back on leash immediately

Status	Complete
Below are what you listed as causes	Greyhounds run at speed and there are 2 benches and the odd stone in the garden beds in the park that they could hit Greyhounds are hard to identify so if there was up to 20 (recommended by GAPSA), the owners may loose sight of their dog Greyhound legislation does not allow them off leash so they could get excitable by being off leash Greyhound like to chase objects so if someone threw a ball it would chase it Greyhound owners are restricted by legislation and excitement at meeting other owners may distract their attention from their dog The dogs may escape from the park The weather can hit high temp temperatures in Adelaide and greyhounds can dehydrate very quickly which would harm the dog Another dog could attack a dog in the park Other dog owners could enter the dog park More than 20 greyhounds may turn up for the event Owners may act inappropriately to other owners, dogs of staff
Now that you have considered what controls you have in place is the potential consequence the same ? (it may be)	Moderate
With those controls in place how likely is it the issue will occur now?.	Rare (Less than 5% chance to happen)
Do you have anything else planned to control the risk that is not in place yet?	Yes
Future Solutions -Please note anything below that is planned but not in place yet.	
1	Review of trial in 6 months

Appendix B

Summary of supervisory responsibilities

	Role	Responsibilities
Supervision	Inside dog park	• Monitor participants adherence to terms and conditions and intervene if necessary • Keep a list of emergency vet clinics in case of any accidents
	Outside dog park	• Monitor activities outside the park and keep other dogs away from the fence line
	Check-in area	• Check-in registered participants • Sight evidence of muzzle exemption – no exemption, no entry • Ensure other dog breeds don't enter the greyhound only event
Set-up and pack down	Park set-up	• Close park to other users (non-greyhounds) • Set up for event e.g. ◦ Put up shade cloth along fence line, foam around park furniture, and additional water buckets for dogs • Close of other entry/exit gates (use one gate for entry and exit for event)
	Park pack-down	• Remove water buckets and clean up park • Open park to general public (other users)

Appendix C

Greyhound off-leash event planning checklist

Preparation checklist

This checklist has been prepared to assist councils in organising a greyhound off-leash event.

Budget

- [ ] Prepare a budget e.g. staff resources, signage, shade cloth and foam for furniture if relevant

Bookings

- [ ] Set up a booking system for registrations and cancellations

Marketing and promotion

- [ ] Advertise in local messenger
- [ ] Develop a page on council website
- [ ] Post on social media e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- [ ] Erect signage at park

Pre-event

- [ ] Check that all fencing and gates are in good working order
- [ ] Clean up any old balls and rubbish in park
- [ ] Allocate staff to supervise the event

On the day

- [ ] Take registration list for check-ins
- [ ] Set up additional water bowls
- [ ] Place padding around park furniture and other potential obstacles
- [ ] Close off other entry/exit gates (only have one entry/exit gate)
- [ ] Erect shade cloth along fence lines if needed
- [ ] Have a list of emergency vets in area in case of any incidents

After the event

- [ ] Pack down the park and remove any rubbish
- [ ] Debrief with staff to look at ways of improving future events

OFF-LEASH GREYHOUND EVENTS:
GUIDELINES FOR COUNCILS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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