

Australian Capital Territory

Domestic Animals (Fees) Determination 2018 (No 3)

Disallowable instrument DI2018–285

made under the

Domestic Animals Act 2000, Section 144 (Determination of fees)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 144 of the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* (the Act) provides that the Minister may determine fees for the Act.

This determination makes amendments to fees associated with keeping and registering racing greyhounds.

Under the *Domestic Animals (Racing Greyhounds) Legislation Amendment Act 2017*, a person who has control of one or more racing greyhounds (for training, handling or rearing purposes) is required to obtain a racing greyhound controller licence.

Additionally, an owner of a greyhound that is to be used for racing is required to apply for and obtain a racing greyhound registration for that dog from the age of six months.

Racing greyhounds are also no longer automatically exempt from de-sexing requirements. The process for obtaining a permit to keep a sexually entire greyhound for the purposes of racing will be part of obtaining a racing greyhound registration, and is reflected in the fees for a racing greyhound registration.

In progressing the racing greyhound ban, the Government made it clear that the ownership, breeding and training of greyhounds in the ACT for racing outside of the ACT will be able to continue on the basis that it is at no cost to the ACT community.

The fees introduced in April 2018 were based on a conservative estimate of administering racing greyhound controller licenses and registration and to ensure that this was at no cost to the ACT community.

Since the fees were implemented in April 2018, the NSW Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (the GWIC) commenced operation on 1 July 2018. The GWIC is the independent regulator of the greyhound racing industry in NSW. The GWIC was a key recommendation of the Greyhound Industry Reform Panel set up in NSW to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare for racing greyhounds. This Commission will undertake welfare inspections of racing greyhounds against a robust code of practice, in line with the code of practice introduced in the ACT.

Based on feedback from industry participants and conversations with the new NSW GWIC, all racing greyhounds that remain located in the ACT will participate in racing activities in NSW and therefore will also be regulated by the new NSW GWIC.

To ensure mutual recognition and effective cross-jurisdictional collaboration, the operations of the ACT and NSW GWIC can be streamlined to ensure the highest standard of animal welfare for racing greyhounds kept in the ACT that are also regulated by the NSW GWIC. For example, NSW GWIC will undertake welfare compliance inspections of racing greyhounds kept in the ACT. This would significantly reduce inspection costs for the ACT Government, as well as provide for a good operational working relationship between NSW and the ACT in ensuring the highest standards of animal welfare for racing greyhounds that remain located in the ACT. This will also enable sharing of information across borders in the interests of greyhound welfare (for example, in taking compliance action or identifying offenders).

Transport Canberra and City Services has undertaken comprehensive measures to engage and educate racing greyhound keepers and facilitate compliance with the greyhound racing ban in the ACT and new fee regime. The fee regime has been revised based on this operational experience, as well as the now operational NSW GWIC, to reflect a true cost of service while still not resulting in any cost to the community.

Specifically, this determination:

- reduces the annual registration fee for a racing greyhound to \$72.00 where no attendance or inspection is required at the premises. This fee also includes an administrative fee associated with having a sexually entire dog;
- sets an annual registration fee for a racing greyhound at \$214.40 where attendance is required at the premises or an inspection is required. This fee also includes an administrative fee associated with having a sexually entire dog; and
- reduces the application and renewal fee for a racing greyhound controller licence to \$142.40, noting that inspections will now be streamlined in partnership with the NSW GWIC.

This determination revokes the previous fee determination [DI2018-175].

The determination takes effect the day after notification.

The table below indicates the amount of the old fee, the amount of the new fee, the percentage difference and a summary of the reason for the change as a result of this instrument. Other fees not set out below were increased according to CPI as part of DI2018-175.

column 1 Item Number	column 2 Relevant section of Act or Regulation for which the fee is payable	column 3 Description of Matter for which fee is payable	column 4 Previous fee payable in 2017-2018 (where applicable)	column 5 Current fee payable	column 6 % change	Column 7 Reason for change
Part 1		Registration of dogs				
1.4	s.39C	Registration of a racing greyhound on application of keeper (no inspection/attendance required) This fee is payable by the keeper of a racing greyhound to the ACT Government.	\$612	\$72	-88%	Revised based on operational experience and new arrangements with the NSW GWIC that reduce administrative and inspection costs.
1.5	s.39C	Registration of a racing greyhound following inspection (inspection/attendance required) This fee is payable by the keeper of a racing greyhound to the ACT Government.	\$612	\$214.40	-65%	Revised based on operational experience and new arrangements with the NSW GWIC that reduce administrative and inspection costs.
Part 2		Licences and Permits				
2.7	s.39H	Application for racing greyhound controller licence This fee is payable by the applicant for a racing greyhound controller licence (this may or may not be the keeper of the greyhound) to the ACT Government.	\$640.00	\$142.40	-78%	Revised based on operational experience and new arrangements with the NSW GWIC that reduce administrative and inspection costs.
2.8	s.32	Renewal of a racing greyhound controller licence This fee is payable by the applicant for a racing greyhound controller licence (this may or may not be the keeper of the greyhound) to the ACT Government.	\$640.00	\$142.40	-78%	Revised based on operational experience and new arrangements with the NSW GWIC that reduce administrative and inspection costs.