



**Greyhound Owners Trainers & Breeders  
Association of Victoria, Inc.**

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**Note to Members: Our participation in GRV Working Group: *Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds (April 2018)***

The *Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds (April 2018)* (**Code**), which will apply to the keeping of all GRV registered greyhounds (other than retired ones), is almost upon us, with commencement on 1 January 2020.

GOTBA Vic has been requested by GRV to (and will) participate in a small (6-7 member) participant working group that is assisting on the development of proforma or template documents and other material ahead of the formal Code commencement on 1 January 2020. This is material to which participants can refer and then develop to meet their Code obligations.

**The Code**

We do not like the Code. Compliance will be an overly bureaucratic, costly and most importantly welfare-unnecessary administrative nightmare. The Code contains concepts and procedures that are in many places just odd for those who have had any practical experience with greyhounds. It is ill-suited to the variety of different forms of participation in greyhound racing, particularly hobby participation.

Our thoughts on this remain not too far from our 2017 submission to the relevant public department – see <https://gotbav.org.au/GOTBA-Submissions/5066592> - even though those GOTBA Vic submissions and much subsequent work in 2017 and 2018 (with others) did result in significant improvements from first draft to final Code form. For example, GOTBA Vic was largely responsible for amendment to the Code to allow ‘grandfathering’ of a participant’s existing facilities until they need replacement (see Section 1 of the Code), removing massive upfront compliance cost. GOTBA Vic work saw removal of many (but not all) silly prescriptive requirements for construction and use of facilities and handling dogs.

*But, whether we like the Code or not, the Code is almost here.* The work to be ready is vast. Not all of it is within participant or even GRV control (eg the willingness of third parties – vets – to sign off on various matters).

**Working Group: GOTBA Vic involvement and our approach**

At this stage, GOTBA Vic has 2 committee members on the Working Group, Rob Britton and Lynton Hogan, and good relationships with other Working Group members who include club and vet representatives.

We will participate in good faith in the Working Group. Our approach to the Code and Working Group is as follows:

1. Code documentation that is to be prepared or completed by participants is to be as simple and minimal as possible for compliance (although, unfortunately, this will still mean a lot of material);

2. Code requirements should not be added to by GRV rules or policies (including by adding compulsory documents or requirements for participants to complete in GRV's proposed administration of the Code), save in truly exceptional circumstances; and
3. The manner in which GRV administers the Code (including in preparation for it) cannot be unduly technical and needs to be clearly communicated to participants.

Members can be assured that we will seek to advance the interests of participants in the course of our involvement in the Working Group. We will keep you informed.

Over the course of this year, GRV will release documents and other material that has flowed through the Working Group. If, for example, we feel that GRV's approach does not match our own or that voices on the Working Group are not being listened to, we will tell you.

In particular, we would welcome feedback from members on GRV Code material, when available and released, that we can address within the Working Group. Ideas are always welcome.

Working Group participation is one of a number of things that GOTBA Vic is working on to assist members for Code commencement.

Member queries can be directed to our email ([gotbav@gmail.com](mailto:gotbav@gmail.com)), via our Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/GOTBAVic>), or by phone (0423 357 620).

**GOTBA Vic**