

GREYHOUND RACING NEW ZEALAND POLICY

BARKING MUZZLES

Greyhound Racing NZ (NZGRA) has announced that barking muzzles of the type shown below will no longer be permitted to be used at race tracks from 1st August 2016, due to the risk they pose to the health and welfare of greyhounds.

Barking muzzles are a risk to a greyhound's health and welfare as:

- They have the potential to limit panting and heat exchange, and
- By restricting the opening of the mouth there is risk of aspiration of vomit, and
- They do not alleviate the underlying reason for barking and as such risk increase a dog's anxiety and frustration.

Use of barking muzzles to attempt to reduce the greyhound's energy expenditure prior to racing also cannot be justified on animal welfare grounds and fails to recognise that the greyhound may experience increased distress by restricting its ability to perform a behaviour that can be a coping mechanism (displacement behaviour). This may have consequences for performance as well as welfare.

Barking straps and American style muzzles (as shown) allowing the dog normal opening of the mouth are, at this point, permitted as a means to prevent a dog chewing at an enclosure but please note that these will be checked by a vet before kennelling on race days to ensure they do not cause injury, pain or distress.

 - **Approved**



 - **Not Approved**

