



What happens if a greyhound is put to sleep before it retires from racing?

In the unfortunate event of a greyhound's death due to natural causes, the owner's £200 contribution to the GRS will be returned to them on submission of a Green Form and a vet's letter confirming the circumstances of the death.

If a greyhound is put to sleep on humane grounds following veterinary advice, it will be up to GBGB to decide whether or not the owner's £200 contribution can be returned.

GBGB is committed to eliminating euthanasia on economic grounds. As such, if a greyhound is euthanised on economic grounds, the owner forfeits their GRS bond and GBGB retains it in full.

For more details on the scheme, please visit:
www.gbgb.org.uk/greyhound-retirement-scheme/



“ Planning for a long and happy retirement for your greyhound is an essential part of responsible ownership and should never be an afterthought. The GRS means that every greyhound has a secure future before they even set foot on the racetrack. ”

John Coleman
GBGB Owners' Director

“ The GRS gives us vital financial security as a homing centre. We are delighted to be included in this new and exciting development which will improve welfare for these beautiful dogs and help us find them happy, forever homes. ”

Alison Brown
Lead Volunteer
Edinburgh Greyhound Trust

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The Greyhound Retirement Scheme

Information Leaflet

A greyhound's racing career is only one chapter in its life. Whilst greyhounds enjoy impressive athletic careers on the track, in retirement they love nothing more than lazing around on the sofa in a caring and responsible forever home.

As part of the Greyhound Board of Great Britain's Greyhound Commitment, we have pledged that, wherever possible, every greyhound leaving racing should enjoy a long and happy retirement. The Greyhound Retirement Scheme (GRS) seeks to meet this pledge by ensuring the financial costs of homing a greyhound are met before their racing career even begins.

Under the GRS, a £400 bond – paid for jointly by owners and GBGB – is attached to each newly registered racing greyhound. The full bond is unlocked when a greyhound enters an approved homing centre which means a greyhound's future is safe and secure before they have even stepped foot on the track.

This leaflet sets out how the scheme works and answers some of the most frequently asked questions. If you require any further information, please contact the GRS Co-ordinator at grs@gbgb.org.uk or visit www.gbgb.org.uk/greyhound-retirement-scheme/.

How the scheme works

Under the scheme, which began on 1st September 2020, owners are required to pay a £200 GRS payment at the same time as registering their greyhound with GBGB. This is in addition to the GBGB registration fee. This payment is matched by GBGB who contribute £200 on the greyhound's retirement creating a £400 bond that will assist with associated homing costs.

To give owners time to adjust to the GRS, for the first year of the scheme up until 31st August 2021, owners are only required to pay £100 towards the GRS at the point of registration. Without such payment, a greyhound is not registered and therefore not permitted to trial or race. The remaining £100 GRS fee can be paid any time up to and including on retirement.

Similarly, owners of British Bred greyhounds (i.e. those which are born, microchipped and earmarked in Britain) registered between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2022 are only required to pay £100 towards the scheme, while GBGB will contribute the remaining £300 on the greyhound's retirement. This dispensation will be reviewed for 1st September 2022 onwards, subject to funding.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What homing costs does the GRS cover?

The GRS bond goes towards the costs of kennelling, feeding and caring for the greyhound during its stay at the homing centre or charity until a home is found. It does not cover any veterinary costs associated with homing prior to the greyhound entering the centre i.e. any neutering or dental work which may be required.

If I registered my greyhound with GBGB prior to 1 September 2020, can I join the GRS?

Yes. You can join the GRS scheme by paying a £200 registration fee any time up to or on your greyhound's retirement.



Where is the GRS bond kept until needed?

The owner's contribution is kept in a separate bank account set up by GBGB. Any interest accrued is used by GBGB to fund their contributions to the GRS.

At what point does GBGB release the bond?

Owners are required to complete a Green Form and submit it to GBGB. On receipt of a correctly completed Green Form, GBGB will contact the homing charity listed to confirm that the greyhound is with them. The full GRS bond of £400 will then be transferred directly to the approved homing centre's bank account. The bond can only be paid to homing centres which have been approved by GBGB.

How do homing centres become approved?

To become GBGB approved, homing centres need to have the following policies and measures in place:

- Homing policy;
- Returns and euthanasia policy;
- Suitable kennel size, bed, bedding material, cleaning and disinfectant policy;
- Daily exercise routine;
- Environmental enrichment;
- Food diet, preparation and food storage facility;
- Sufficient monitoring practice of behaviour, health and welfare;

- A veterinary healthcare practice linked to the homing centre;
- Suitable temperature and weather condition control;
- Emergency plan/Isolation facility;
- Kennel security arrangements.

A full list of approved homing centres is available on the GBGB website.

How can I help speed up the homing process?

Greyhounds that have been prepared for life as a pet will inevitably be homed more quickly than those that have not. Homes are very different to kennel environments so the more work an owner or trainer puts into preparing for the change from kennel to sofa, the easier that transition will be and the quicker it will be to find a suitable home. For example, it is a good idea to introduce a greyhound to some of the sounds and experiences they would encounter in a home such as the TV, washing machine, Hoover and stairs.

Can owners keep their greyhounds as pets and receive the GRS bond?

Many owners build a close bond with their greyhound and wish to keep them as a pet upon retirement. In this case, the owner will receive their £200 contribution once GBGB has received a correctly completed Green Form and a receipted veterinary invoice confirming that the greyhound has been neutered and received any necessary dental work.

Likewise, an owner or trainer may choose to home their greyhound privately and not through a homing centre. To do this, owners are required to satisfactorily complete the Green Form and provide a receipted veterinary invoice confirming the greyhound has been neutered and received any dental work. GBGB will return the £200 owner's contribution once the new owner has confirmed that the greyhound is with them.

In both cases, GBGB will not provide its £200 contribution.

