

Greyhound Health Assistance Services Project



Summary of Feedback, Responses and Actions

March 2019

This project includes the review of seven units of competency, five skill sets and the development of new components based on skills associated with the provision of health assistance services to greyhounds within the RGR *Racing and breeding Training Package*. New components include a draft qualification, skill set and four new units which were developed as a result of initial input from Subject Matter Experts (SME) and were made available for broader stakeholder consultation and feedback 30 October – 9 December 2018. During this time, feedback was received via email, through online surveys, as well as in person at workshops or site visits, and by telephone. Input was sought and received from 35 stakeholders around Australia, including from Principal Racing Authorities (PRAs), Industry representatives, veterinary surgeons, Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), regulatory bodies and government bodies such as state departments and State Training Authorities.

As a direct result of workshop discussions and feedback received, a number of changes were made to the documents under review, most notably:

- The four new units and skill set identify invasive treatments that are outside the scope of practice (subject to Acts of Veterinary Surgeons/Restricted Acts of Veterinary Science)
- Performance evidence specifying how to assess and determine competency for workplace tasks were confirmed for clarity as described in new units of competency
- One new skill set related to job roles relevant to provision of health assistance services to greyhound will include newly developed units
- Pre-requisite units *RGRPSG408 Relate musculoskeletal structure to greyhound movement* and *RGRPSG201 Handle greyhounds* included in newly developed units *RGRPSG410 Provide massage therapy and non-invasive health treatments for greyhounds* and *RGRPSG409 Assess greyhound structural and functional suitability for racing*
- *RGR40419 Certificate IV in Greyhound Racing Industry* - first aid unit added to core in qualification and elective group expanded
- The question of applying new units of competency that identify skills for providing massage therapy and interpreting greyhound behaviour more broadly has been raised. Whether or not they should remain specific to greyhound breeds or be applicable to canine breeds in general will require additional consultation with stakeholders supporting the Animal Care and Management (ACM) Training Package, for example additional consultations with canine health practitioners and behaviourists. This work is more closely aligned to the remit of ACM projects and will therefore be referred to ACM Industry Reference Committee (IRC) for consideration in future projects.

[Visit the Skills Impact website](#) to view a full list of the qualifications and units that were submitted for consultation during this phase.

Below is a summary of the issues raised and how these issues have been dealt with. This involves a consideration of the information provided, views of industry stakeholders where known and views provided by the people who are part of the Subject Matter Expert Working Group process. Resolutions are constructed to take into account the needs and views of stakeholders to the extent possible, and to comply with the *Standards for Training Packages 2012*. The resolutions may represent a compromise on one or more stakeholder views with the aim of a workable outcome for industry, State and Territory Training Authorities (STAs) and training providers.

The documents are now available to view and validate on the [Skills Impact website](#) until 22 March 2019.

Summary of feedback

RGR40419 Certificate IV in Greyhound Racing Industry

In discussions it was agreed that the inclusion of core units and the addition of specialist streams would provide wider application of the qualification and provide pathways for job roles within the industry

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues – <i>RGR40419 Certificate IV in Greyhound Racing Industry</i>		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Industry QLD	<p><i>RGR40419 Certificate IV in Greyhound Industry</i> (Health Assistant specialisation) - consider adding first aid unit to core in qualification.</p> <p>Check content of National Dog Trainers Association of Australia – National Certificate in Dog Training and Care to look at potential RPL for participants who have completed components of this training.</p>	<p>Adopted.</p> <p><i>RGRPSG302 Assess health and provide first aid for greyhounds</i> moved from elective to core unit.</p> <p>Qualification is registered with VRQA.</p> <p><i>22214VIC Certificate III in Dog Behaviour and Training</i></p> <p>Cert in Dog Training is copyright to National Dog Trainers Federation Pty Ltd. RTOs would need to undertake mapping of qualification for RPL</p>
Industry VIC	<p><i>RGR40419 Certificate IV Greyhound Industry</i> (Health Assistant specialisation) – expand elective group D. Suggest expanding elective bank with ACM and other generic dog training units.</p> <p>Potential to expand massage therapy to cover show dogs as well as greyhound (similar set of injuries).</p> <p>There are aspects physiology that are specific to greyhound – e.g. racing all in one direction so left side favoured. Also behaviours specific to greyhounds.</p>	<p>Adopted - additional ACM and TAE electives added to elective Group D. The following elective units have been included:</p> <p><i>ACMACR401 Comply with animal control and regulation requirements</i></p> <p><i>ACMCAN302 Prepare and present information to the public</i></p> <p><i>ACMCAS409 Provide training advice to companion animal owners</i></p> <p><i>ACMGAS210 Prepare for and conduct a tour or presentation</i></p> <p><i>ACMSPE304 Provide basic care of domestic dogs</i></p> <p><i>ACMSUS401 Implement and monitor environmentally sustainable work practices</i></p> <p><i>ACMVET411 Prepare, deliver and review animal care education programs</i></p> <p><i>TAEASS301 Contribute to assessment</i></p> <p><i>TAEASS401 Plan assessment activities and processes</i></p> <p><i>TAEASS402 Assess competence</i></p>

		<p><i>TAEASS402 Participate in assessment validation</i></p> <p><i>TAEDEL301 Provide work skill instruction</i></p> <p><i>TAEDEL404 Mentor in the workplace</i></p> <p>Comments noted re differences between greyhounds and other canine breeds. Issue to be referred to ACM Industry Reference Committee (IRC) for further discussion and research.</p>
Industry WA	<p><i>RGR40419 Certificate IV Greyhound Industry</i></p> <p>Minor edit to descriptor re health assistant specialisation – ‘add non-veterinary’ health services.</p>	<p>Adopted.</p> <p>Added ‘non-veterinary’ to qualification description.</p>

Summary of feedback on units of competency

General feedback and issues

All new units have been developed to include volume and/or frequency in performance evidence to comply with the *Standards for Training Packages 2012* and Foundation Skills included in each.

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues – Units of competency		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Industry, Govt, RTO NSW	<p>RGRPSG407 Work as a greyhound health assistant</p> <p>Knowledge Evidence (KE) include: Invasive treatments and diagnosis and make it clear about activities related to Acts of Veterinary Surgeons/Restricted Acts of Veterinary Science.</p> <p>Check requirements for working in a business – could be a barrier (remove from unit?).</p> <p>Consider making some units more general i.e. canine rather than greyhound specific as there is a demand in other sectors for massage therapy and rehoming/adopting dogs.</p>	<p>Adopted - Diagnosis included in KE.</p> <p>Removed PC 3.1 and related points in KE referring to working in a business.</p> <p>Questions regarding whether or not newly developed units of competency could apply more broadly to canines in general or remain specific to greyhound breeds were raised in a number of consultation workshops and a summary of discussion is outlined later in this document (page 5).</p>
Govt. WA	<p><i>RGRPSG4077 Work as a greyhound health assistant</i></p>	<p>Adopted - point added to PE.</p>

	Review Performance Evidence (PE) to show actual performance rather than just assessing knowledge.	
Industry, Govt WA	<p>No intention of licensing 'musclemen' WA according to VET and integrity representatives. Small scale of industry in WA helps to regulate the industry and not an environment where 'unethical' practices can flourish.</p> <p>Potential for Vet Nurse qual to complement greyhound health assistance qual?</p> <p>There is a strong focus on muscular skeletal in health assistance unit but also need to consider relation to other systems in the body, for example how anatomy and physiology fit together.</p>	<p>Noted comments.</p> <p>Existing greyhound anatomy units are available and could be selected in qualifications.</p>
Industry SA	<p><i>RGRPSG4077 Work as a greyhound health assistant</i> Minor edits to wording provided as tracked changes.</p> <p>PC 3.4 and typo in 3.2; acupuncture added to invasive treatments in KE.</p>	Adopted.
Industry TAS	<p><i>RGRPSG407 Work as a greyhound health assistant</i> Suggest deleting PC3.1 as many people would not run a business i.e. owner/trainers</p>	<p>Adopted</p> <p>PC 1.3 removed</p>
Industry SA	<p><i>RGRPSG408 Relate musculoskeletal structure to greyhound movement</i> Minor edits to wording in Knowledge Evidence (KE) provided as tracked changes</p>	<p>Adopted.</p> <p>Thoracic added to KE re musculoskeletal system.</p>
Industry SA	<p><i>RGRPSG409 Assess greyhound structural and functional suitability for racing</i> Add RGRPSG407 as prerequisite unit OR add new Performance Criteria (PC) to cover scope of practice.</p>	Added new PC to address scope of practice.
Industry SA	<p><i>RGRPSG410 Provide massage therapy and non-invasive health treatments for greyhounds</i> Minor edits to wording provided as tracked changes.</p> <p>Support for prerequisites for the unit.</p>	Wording changes for clarity adopted. Prerequisite units retained.
Industry VIC	<p>RGRSSXX4 Greyhound Health Assistant Skill Set Supportive of the Health Assistant Skill Set overall.</p>	Adopted - added 'invasive treatments that are outside the scope of practice' to all four newly developed units (RGRPSG407, 408, 409 and 410).

	<p>Unsure how large the cohort of greyhound health assistants is, as it refers providing independent greyhound health services for industry participants. However do support the Competency Unit Work as a greyhound health assistant to include a clear statement of the invasive treatments that are outside the scope of practice. This should be included as a standard statement in the three other proposed new Competency Units for a health assistant. Its importance cannot be underestimated.</p>	
<p>Question to SME group regarding whether or not newly developed units of competency could apply more broadly to canines in general or remain specific to greyhound breeds</p> <p>Provide massage and non-invasive health treatments to greyhounds Interpret and manage greyhound behaviour</p>		
Industry WA	<p>There is too much unique to Greyhounds to be canine specific. The massage and non-invasive treatments are very racing dog specific and what can and cannot be done is covered by rules of racing as well as any legislated laws.</p> <p>The behaviour is also very greyhound racing dog specific – Whilst there is some cross-over to general canine issues the very specific issues associated with racing greyhounds needs it to remain focussed on their issues alone.</p>	<p>Developing units with broader canine application would require additional consultation with ACM stakeholders - outside of the scope of the current RGR projects - for example with canine health practitioners and behaviourists and other rescue/shelter groups. This work is more closely aligned to the remit of ACM projects and has therefore been referred to ACM Industry Reference Committee (IRC) for consideration in future projects.</p>
Industry Vic	<p>There is too much unique to Greyhounds to be canine specific.</p>	
Industry NSW	<p>Agree with comments around keeping things specific to greyhounds and their behaviours. Whilst acknowledged there is certainly cross over to some aspects of other breeds, generally speaking the issues are unique to greyhound, their upbringing and chosen career. That being said, hopefully with improved practices in the industry in particular around mandatory socialisation practices, the cross over with 'normal dogs' will increase as they become better equipped for a domestic environment beyond their proposed racing career.</p>	
Industry Victoria	<p>Provide massage and non-invasive health treatments to greyhounds - Unit</p> <p>The people the course is planning to train only require basic information relevant to the type of injuries racing greyhounds sustain, and how to treat them.</p> <p>The course should not attempt to train them in pathology and rehabilitation techniques which are currently only taught at a tertiary level.</p>	

	<p>Racing greyhounds sustain many injuries which are uncommon in other breeds of dogs and other types of sporting dogs. for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarsal joint injuries • Gracilis muscle injuries <p>The course should not be complicated by including conditions which are rarely seen in greyhounds such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip and elbow arthritis • Degenerative spinal disk disease <p>Currently some greyhound health assistants do work with other breeds of dogs. Any training provided to them from this course would be of benefit when examining and treating other breeds. However there does exist a large number of “animal therapists” who do varying types of chiropractic work, acupuncture and massage etc. with non-greyhound breeds and so the general canine breeds are well served by them.</p> <p>Interpret and manage greyhound behaviour - Unit Greyhound behaviour is a function of the current breeding, rearing, training, racing and socialisation practices within the industry There are currently programs in place to change and improve these practices.</p> <p>Many greyhounds however are well reared and socialised. These tend to be the dogs which are bred by smaller breeders who make the time to socialise their dogs.</p> <p>These dogs tend to transition into retirement easily.</p> <p>Conversely some non-greyhounds which are reared in kennel situations (especially German shepherd dogs or dogs being trained for security work) have similar behavioural issues to that seen with some greyhounds.</p> <p>As such, this unit has the potential to be made relevant to all breeds.</p>	
Industry Qld	<i>Provide massage and non-invasive health treatments to greyhounds and Interpret and manage greyhound behaviour</i>	

	<p>For those two units highlighted, there is scope to make them applicable to other breeds and consideration should be given to that</p> <p>The only reason there are so many perceived greyhound specific behavioural problems is because they are all subjected to the same background and its current deficits. To understand how to interpret greyhound behaviour, one should be fluent in dog. I think better dogmanship skills in general would be beneficial. No other course really focusses on the one breed of dog, to my knowledge. In my practice, the problems that greyhound adopters (for example) struggle with are invariably the same as those for those who adopt other breeds that have been poorly socialised etc.</p> <p>The massage course is designed to upskill existing muscle men arguably, if possible, and to add some science for those who may be considering such a career. The course would offer a broader appeal if other breeds and activities (agility, etc.) were included, and perhaps encourage more people to include greyhounds within their portfolio rather than focussing on one breed only. Similarly, there is a risk of just validating pre-existing, but largely outdated, treatments because that is 'what has always been done and greyhounds are different'.</p> <p>The majority of SME are from the racing industry, which of course is hugely beneficial. However, it may blind side us into forgetting that they are not really a unique population of dogs with unique problems.</p>	
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