

GUIDELINES FOR RACING DOG KEEPING AND TRAINING FACILITIES (2016)

SEPTEMBER 2016

1 Application

Guidelines for Racing Dog Keeping and Training Facilities (2016) is an incorporated document in all planning schemes in Victoria. It sets out requirements for the use and development of land for **Racing dog keeping** and **Racing dog training** for more than:

- 2 *racing dogs* on land in a Green Wedge A Zone, Rural Conservation Zone or Rural Living Zone.
- 5 *racing dogs* on land in a Farming Zone, Green Wedge Zone or Rural Activity Zone

The meanings of the italicised words used in this document are set out in Clause 5.

2 How to use these guidelines

The provisions in this document contain:

- **Objectives** – An objective describes the outcome to be achieved.
- **Performance measures** – A performance measure sets out standards that meet the objective.

Under the provisions of the Farming Zone, Green Wedge Zone, Green Wedge A Zone, Rural Activity Zone, Rural Conservation Zone and Rural Living Zone, a permit is not required to use land for a *racing dog facility* if:

- the number of *racing dogs* does not exceed the number specified in the zone; or
- the proposal meets all the **performance measures** in this document;

and a permit is not required to construct a building or construct or carry out works for a *racing dog facility* if:

- the proposal meets all the **performance measures** in this document; and
- any earthworks and setback requirements in the zone are met; and
- a permit is not required under another provision of the scheme (such as an Overlay or Particular Provision).

If any of the above are not met and a permit is required to use or develop land for a *racing dog facility*, the application must:

- meet the objectives in this document; and
- be accompanied by the information required under Clause 4 of this document.

A person considering developing a new *racing dog facility* or expanding an existing facility is encouraged to consult with the municipal council early in the planning stages to identify whether a planning permit is required for the facility or for any other works (such as advertising signs).

3 Objectives and performance measures

Some performance measures can be met by achieving a compliant RW rating. An RW rating is a measure of the acoustic separation (as determined in a laboratory) provided by a single building element. Where a performance measure can be achieved using construction methods meeting a specified RW rating, one of the following is required to demonstrate compliance:

- a laboratory acoustic test report for the proposed construction; or
- an acoustic opinion provided by a suitably-qualified acoustic consultant.

3.1 Number and density of racing dogs

Objective

To ensure a *racing dog facility* minimises its impact on the amenity of the surrounding area.

Performance measure

3.1.1 The maximum number of racing dogs kept on the land must not exceed:

- 20 in the Rural Living Zone, Green Wedge A Zone and Rural Conservation Zone.
- 50 in the Farming Zone, Green Wedge Zone and Rural Activity Zone.
- 10 racing dogs per hectare.

3.2 Setbacks

Objective

To minimise the impact of a *racing dog facility* on the character and amenity of the surrounding area through appropriate setbacks from boundaries and neighbouring dwellings.

Performance measure

3.2.1 The setback distances specified in Table 1 must be met.

Table 1: Setback distances

Type of racing dog facility	Minimum distance from the property boundary (measured from the external edge of the facility)	Minimum distance from a dwelling on another property (measured from the external edge of the facility to the external edge of the dwelling)
<i>Kennel</i> , where the total number of racing dogs housed in one or more kennels is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 5 • 6 to 20 • more than 20 	1.5 metres	10 metres
	10 metres	50 metres
	10 metres	100 metres
<i>Spelling yard</i> for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 5 racing dogs • more than 5 racing dogs 	1.5 metres	10 metres
	10 metres	50 metres
<i>Rearing/puppy yard</i>	10 metres	50 metres
<i>Exercise yard</i>	25 metres	100 metres
<i>Slipping track</i>	5 metres	50 metres
<i>Straight track</i> with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a non-mechanised lure • a mechanised lure 	5 metres	100 metres
	25 metres	100 metres
<i>Circle or oval track</i> with a steel rail and a mechanised lure	25 metres	100 metres
<i>Circular training facility</i>	25 metres	100 metres

3.3 Visual treatment of kennels and associated buildings and works

Objective

To ensure the materials and finishes used to construct buildings and works associated with the *racing dog facility* minimise impacts on the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

Performance measure

3.3.1 Building materials must be non-reflective and finished in natural colours and tones of surrounding vegetation, soil, rocks or other natural features, and kept in good condition.

3.4 Landscaping

Objective

To screen views of the *racing dog facility* from adjoining roads and properties.

Performance measure

3.4.1 Buildings visible from adjacent roads and dwellings on neighbouring properties must be screened by a 1.5 metre wide strip of vegetation. Vegetation must be at least 1.2 metres in height when fully mature.

3.5 Fencing and gates

Objective

To ensure that adequate fencing and gates are provided to prevent escape of *racing dogs*.

Performance measures

3.5.1 The area set aside for *Racing dog keeping* must be surrounded by secure perimeter fencing and gates to a minimum height of 1.8 metres.

3.5.2 The area set aside for *Racing dog training* must be surrounded by secure fencing and gates to a minimum height of 1 metre.

3.6 Screening of facilities

Objective

To ensure *racing dogs'* views outside the area set aside for *Racing dog keeping* are screened to avoid barking as a result of external activity.

Performance measures

3.6.1 Fencing around the area set aside for *Racing dog keeping* must be covered in a screening material that obscures *racing dogs'* outward views and is:

- a minimum height of 1.2 metres; and
- non-reflective and finished in natural colours and tones of surrounding vegetation, soil, rocks or other natural features finished in natural, muted colour tones and kept in good condition.

3.7 Waste water management

Objective

To ensure all waste water is disposed of in a manner that protects water quality and does not cause odour, public health or environmental nuisance.

Performance measure

3.7.1 The *racing dog facility* must:

- be connected to a reticulated sewerage system; or
- if a reticulated sewerage system is not available, waste water must be treated and retained on-site in accordance with the *State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria)* under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*.

3.8 Stormwater management

Objective

To ensure that stormwater is appropriately managed to avoid stormwater contamination.

Performance measure

3.8.1 Stormwater must be managed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant drainage authority.

3.9 Solid waste disposal

Objective

To ensure all solid waste is disposed of in a manner that does not cause odour, public health or environmental nuisance and does not attract vermin.

Performance measures

3.9.1 Solid waste must be removed from *kennels* and yards daily.

3.9.2 For facilities with more than 10 *racing dogs*; solid waste must be stored in a weather and fly-proof receptacle and disposed of:

- via a licensed trade waste disposal service; or
- using a solid waste treatment system or method approved by the relevant local authority.

3.10 Site management

Objective

To ensure the *racing dog facility* is operated in a manner that minimises potential adverse amenity impacts on the surrounding area.

Performance measures 3.10.1 to 3.10.3 inclusive do not apply to a *racing dog facility* where the area set aside for *racing dog keeping* and *training* is located more than 500 metres from a dwelling on another property and the boundary of any land in a Residential Zone.

Performance measures

3.10.1 *Racing dogs* must be supervised when outside of a *secure building*.

3.10.2 *Racing dogs* must only be fed between 7am and 6pm if outside a *secure building*.

3.10.3 *Training of racing dogs* must only occur during daylight hours.

3.11 Acoustic treatment of *kennels*

Objective

To ensure the design, construction and use of a *kennel* minimises noise impacts on adjoining properties.

Performance measures 3.11.1 to 3.11.6 inclusive do not apply to a *kennel* located more than 500 metres from a dwelling on another property and the boundary of any land in a Residential Zone.

Performance measures

3.11.1 A *kennel* wall must be constructed:

- to achieve a minimum RW50 rating; or
- with a minimum 110 millimetre brickwork; or
- with 100 millimetre concrete panels; or
- with 140 millimetre hollow concrete blocks; or
- with materials comprising:
 - 0.6 millimetre steel or 6 millimetre fibre cement sheet; and
 - minimum 90 millimetre timber or steel studs; and
 - minimum 50 millimetre thick insulation in the cavity; and
 - 6 millimetre fibre cement sheet, 13 millimetre thick plasterboard or 18 millimetre thick plywood.

3.11.2 A *kennel* roof must be constructed:

- to achieve a minimum RW45 rating; or
- with a minimum 0.6 millimetre thick steel; and
- with a ceiling that has a minimum cavity of 100 millimetres from the underside of the roof, made of:
 - 6 millimetre thick fibre cement; or
 - 13 millimetre thick plasterboard; and
- with a minimum 50 millimetre thick insulation in the cavity.

3.11.3 Cavity insulation for any *kennel* wall or roof must be:

- a minimum 50 millimetres thick comprising:
 - polyester insulation with a minimum density of 10 kilograms per cubic metre; or
 - fibreglass insulation with a minimum density of 14 kilograms per cubic metre; or
 - rockwool with a minimum density of 60 kilograms per cubic metre.

3.11.4 An external *kennel* door must be:

- located in a wall facing away from the nearest dwelling on another property
- constructed to achieve a minimum RW30 rating; or

- hinged, with:
 - a minimum 40 millimetre thick solid core; and
 - compressible seals positioned around the door perimeter consisting of a polyurethane foam core or rubber compressible strip (not a brush, open cell foam or felt type seal); and
 - an airtight drop seal for the door bottom (not a brush type seal); and
- if the door contains a vision panel, the panel must be at least 10.38 millimetres thick laminated single glazing; and
- if the door contains glass, the glass must be set and sealed in an airtight non-hardening sealant or a soft elastomer gasket.

3.11.5 All *kennel* glazing must be:

- located in a wall facing away from the nearest dwelling on another property, or on the roof
- constructed to achieve a minimum RW36 rating; or
- comprise less than 20 per cent of the area of the wall or roof that it is located in; and
- a minimum 10.38 millimetres thick
- if operable, hinged (awning-style) and fitted with compressible acoustic seals around the perimeter, consisting of a polyurethane foam core or rubber compressible strip (not a brush, open cell foam or felt type seal).

3.11.6 *Kennel* ventilation must be:

- constructed to achieve a minimum RW40 rating; or
- located in a wall facing away from the nearest dwelling on another property, or on the roof; and
- restricted in size to the minimum required to achieve the necessary air change rate; and
- ducted from the opening in the *kennel* wall or roof with rigid ductwork for a minimum length of 2 metres incorporating at least two 90-degree bends; and
- internally lined with minimum 50 millimetre thick, 32 kilogram per cubic metre insulation, with a perforated foil facing with an open area of at least 10%; and
- be caulked or filled with mortar.

(Ventilation includes intake and exhaust air openings, ductwork, pipes, conduits or the like.)

4 Application requirements

An application to use or develop land must be accompanied by the following information, as appropriate:

- Plans drawn to scale and fully dimensioned showing:
 - the location and design of all buildings, fences, yards, tracks, paths and other works associated with the proposal;
 - the proposed construction materials and finishes;
 - the proposed landscaping;
 - any other notable feature of the proposed development.
- A site analysis plan drawn to scale and fully dimensioned showing:
 - the distance between the proposed *racing dog facility* and the nearest property boundary;
 - the location of any dwellings on surrounding properties;
 - any other notable feature or characteristic of the area.
- A management plan detailing how the facility will be operated to limit any potential adverse amenity impacts on the surrounding area.
- A design response explaining how the objectives specified in *Guidelines for Racing Dog Keeping and Training Facilities (2016)* are met.

5 MEANING OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Circular training facility (sometimes known as a bullring) means an enclosed facility designed to train the *racing dog* to run. The specifications of a *circular training facility* vary in diameter, but it is usually surrounded by a fence and uses the natural surface of the ground. The facility may have a pole in the centre to which a rotating arm is attached which in turn may be used to trail a lure. The rotating arm may be mechanically powered.

Circle or oval track means a facility that is similar in form and equipment to a *straight track* except for the shape. Generally 300 to 400 metres in circumference.

Exercise yard means a series of two or more fenced enclosures used to exercise *racing dogs* adjacent to each other. Each yard is generally 100 to 120 metres in length and 3 to 4 metres wide but may vary in shape dependent on site characteristics.

Kennel means a building designed to house, spell or whelp *racing dogs* or *puppies* that may contain a series of pens or whelping pens

Puppy means a *racing dog* or offspring of a *racing dog* less than 4 months old.

Racing dog means a dog that is registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria that is 4 months or older.

Racing dog facility means land used for **Racing dog keeping** or **Racing dog training**.

Rearing/puppy yard means an enclosed space used for housing puppies or for rearing of *racing dogs* before they commence race *training*.

Secure building means a fully enclosed building with lockable entrances and exits.

Slipping track means a long, narrow fenced running surface designed to allow a *racing dog* running exercise. Generally 200 to 300 metres in length or more and 4 to 5 metres wide).

Spelling yard means an enclosed space where *racing dogs* may spend short periods of time recuperating outdoors.

Straight track means long, narrow, fenced running surface with a steel lure support rail on one side used to encourage a *racing dog* to jump out of a starting box and chase a lure. Generally 300 to 400 metres in length and 4 to 5 metres wide. The facility may include a raised viewing tower. The lure may be mechanically powered.

Training means any activity, other than kennelling and walking, undertaken in a dedicated facility with the intention to improve the fitness of the *racing dog*.

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