



Greyhound Retirement Scheme (GRS)

Q & A

ABOUT THE SCHEME

1. What is the Greyhound Retirement Scheme (GRS)?

The GRS is being launched on 1st September 2020 as part of GBGB's Greyhound Commitment in which it has pledged that, wherever possible, every greyhound leaving racing should enjoy a long and happy retirement. The GRS is a step-change in the way retired greyhounds are homed as it seeks to ensure the financial costs of homing a greyhound are met before a greyhound even begins their racing career.

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

2. How will the GRS work?

Under the scheme, owners will be required to pay a £200 GRS payment at the same time as registering their greyhound. This will be in addition to the GBGB registration fee. This contribution will be matched by the GBGB who will contribute £200 on the greyhound's retirement to create a £400 bond that will follow the greyhound throughout its career. This bond will assist with associated homing costs when the greyhound moves to a homing centre upon its retirement.

To give owners time to adjust to the GRS, during the first year, between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, owners will only be required to pay £100 towards the GRS at the point of registration. Without such payment, a greyhound will not be registered and will therefore not be permitted to trial or race. The remaining £100 GRS fee can be paid at the point of registration or at any time up to and including on retirement.

3. Are there any dispensations?

To support British breeding in the first two years of the scheme there will be a discount for owners with British bred greyhounds.

For British Bred greyhounds (i.e. those which are born, microchipped and earmarked in Britain) registered between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2022, owners will only be 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.

4. I own a greyhound registered 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 after 1st September 2020 and up to or on your greyhound's retirement.

5. What homing costs does the GRS cover?

The costs associated with homing a retired greyhound vary depending on the homing centre or charity. The GRS Bond will go 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 or charity i.e. any neutering or dental work which may be required.

FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF GRS

6. How will the scheme be administered?

GBGB will administer the scheme as part of its registry system. Payment will remain allocated to the greyhound until it is homed or placed into the care of an animal charity.

GBGB's new Greyhound Retirement Coordinator will administer the scheme and follow up on Green Forms. They will also work with animal welfare charity partners and assist stadia in finding available homing spaces.

7. Where will the GRS Bond be kept until needed?

The monies will be kept in a separate bank account set up by GBGB. Any interest accrued will be used by GBGB to fund their contributions to the GRS.

8. As an owner of a greyhound that was registered before the GRS started, am I able to register with the GRS?

Yes. Any owner with a greyhound already registered with the GBGB will be able to join the scheme upon its launch or up until the retirement of the greyhound. This is not a requirement but will mean that any owner can receive the £200 'match funding' from the GBGB towards the homing of their greyhound.

THE HOMING PROCESS

9. At what point will GBGB release the bond?

Owners will be required to complete a Green Form and submit it to GBGB pursuant to Rule 18 of the GBGB [Rules of Racing](#). On receipt of a correctly completed Green Form, GBGB will contact the homing charity listed to confirm that the greyhound is with them and arrange for the GRS Bond of £400 to be transferred to their bank account.

10. Is GBGB going to take responsibility for homing my greyhound on its retirement?

No. The responsibility for making suitable arrangements for a greyhound on its retirement from racing sits firmly with the owner pursuant to Rule 18. The aim of the GRS is to make financial provision towards the cost of homing before the greyhound's career on the track has begun.

It is hoped that this responsible approach and the financial provision will encourage homing organisations to work with owners, thereby increasing homing opportunities for greyhounds seeking their forever home on their retirement from racing.

GBGB will continue to work with homing charities and will maintain an approved list of homing partners.

Where owners are with trainers attached to a stadium, it may be that the stadium has a nominated person that will provide a point of contact for information on local homing charities, maintain a list of local greyhounds awaiting a home and even assist their owners and trainers in finding spaces.

11. How can I help speed up the homing process?

Those greyhounds that have been prepared for life as a pet will inevitably be homed more quickly than those that haven't. 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.

Ensuring that a retired greyhound has experience of basic recall and has some experience of things that it may not have encountered in kennels, but will encounter in a general household e.g. TV, washing machine, Hoover, stairs, will greatly assist. Having your greyhound neutered prior to it going to a GBGB approved homing partner will also speed up the homing process.

12. I am a registered charity homing greyhounds, how will the GRS Bond work for me?

Any homing charities wishing to work with racing stakeholders to home greyhounds when they retire from racing can apply to GBGB to become an approved homing partner.

Where a Green Form is fully completed and submitted to GBGB, confirming that the homing centre has taken a GBGB registered greyhound for homing, GBGB will release the full GRS bond payment.

WHAT IF...

13. What if an owner uses a registered charity to home their greyhound on its retirement from racing?

The owner will complete the Green Form and submit it to the GBGB pursuant to Rule 18. On receipt of a correctly completed Green Form, the GBGB welfare department will contact the homing charity listed to confirm that the greyhound is with them and will transfer the full GRS bond to their bank account.

14. What if an owner or registered syndicate head decides to keep their greyhound as a pet?

Where an owner, trainer who is the owner, or registered syndicate head retires their greyhound and keeps it as a pet in their home (not remaining in a racing kennel) they will receive the return of their £200 GRS payment.

To do this, the owner will be required to satisfactorily complete and submit the Green Form and provide a receipted veterinary invoice confirming that the greyhound has been neutered and received any necessary dental work.

They will not receive the £200 GBGB contribution.

15. What if an owner homes their greyhound privately (i.e. not through a homing centre)?

Where an owner, trainer who is the owner, or registered syndicate head homes their greyhound privately they will receive the return of their £200 GRS payment.

To do this, the owner will be required to satisfactorily complete and submit the Green Form and provide a receipted veterinary invoice confirming that the greyhound has been neutered and received any necessary dental work. GBGB will contact the new owner to confirm that the greyhound is with them.

They will not receive the £200 GBGB contribution.

16. What happens if a syndicate member other than the registered syndicate head gives the greyhound a home on its retirement?

No other members of a syndicate are known to GBGB, other than the registered syndicate head who is responsible for following Rule 18.

Where the registered syndicate head homes their greyhound with another syndicate member, the registered syndicate head will receive the return of their syndicate's £200 GRS payment.

To do this, the syndicate head will be required to satisfactorily complete and submit the Green Form and provide a receipted veterinary invoice confirming that the greyhound has been neutered and received any necessary dental work. GBGB will contact the new owner to confirm that the greyhound is with them.

They will not receive the £200 GBGB contribution.

17. What if a greyhound dies before retirement of natural causes or sudden death?

In the unfortunate event of a greyhound 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.

18. What happens if a greyhound is euthanised on humane grounds following veterinary advice?

At GBGB's discretion, the owner's £200 contribution to the GRS may be returned to them on submission of a Green Form and a vet's letter confirming the circumstances of the euthanasia.

19. What happens to the bond if an owner euthanises their greyhound on economic grounds?

GBGB is committed to eliminating economic euthanasia. If a greyhound is euthanised on economic grounds, the owner will forfeit the GRS bond and it will be retained by GBGB in full.

20. What if a greyhound is retained by a registered owner or trainer for breeding or sold for breeding?

No bond is payable and it is retained by GBGB in full.

21. What happens if the greyhound is retired from racing in Great Britain to race abroad?

No bond is payable and it is retained by GBGB in full.

22. What if a greyhound is sold for independent racing in England, Scotland or Wales?

Where a greyhound is sold for independent racing, GBGB will hold the full bond of £400 until the greyhound retires from the independent circuit. Once a registered homing centre accepts the greyhound for homing they will be able to claim the GRS money.