APPENDIX K – Noisy Dog Management – Amended

The following document has been amended to address the requests of the Panel Members at the recent Briefing. The additions include;

- The details of the person/s with relevant skills in greyhound behaviour and the extent to which their behaviour may impact the amenity of the locality, particularly in relation to noise.
- Detail typical animal behavioural patterns
- Include relevant informed observations related to the noise, frequency and volume made by greyhounds compared to other species of dogs.
- Provide information related to the potential for stimulus from wild animal sitting and scents to cause additional animal barking that would create more frequent barking and animal noise outside of the scenarios that barking has been modelled for, and the consideration of the potential impact of this noise.
- Provide any other information which the person considers relevant to understanding the behavioural patterns greyhounds kept at the site are likely to exhibit.

Details

- The kennel modules and acoustic considerations have been modelled to support any breed of dog's needs and to reduce noise pollution to the surrounding properties.
- As a general observation from experienced staff, the Greyhounds as Pets Adoption Centres are significantly quieter throughout the day compared to mixed breed shelters such as the RSPCA and council pounds.
- Greyhounds are significantly quieter – less propensity to bark (Branigan, C, 1998). or demonstrate hyperactivity (Elliott et al 2010) than other breeds of dogs housed in a shelter setting or in the home.
- Greyhounds often sleep for almost 18 hours per day. Due to their calm, quiet temperament, Greyhounds can make better "apartment dogs" than smaller, more active breeds (Elliot et all 2010)
- Kennel noise management will exceed requirements of the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 - Dogs and cats in animal boarding establishments – animal holding facilities. The techniques listed in the Code of practice that is included in the kennel design include;
  o siting kennels so that they do not face each other – and the kennels have been designed side by side in a semicircle that has solid walls between the sleeping areas.
  o limiting external stimulation, e.g., by partitioning between kennels or using blinds
  o holding dogs singly or in compatible pairs
  o turning lights off after feeding
- Each kennel module is designed to maximise the welfare of the dogs which in turn reduces barking and howling by allowing the dogs to have choice and reducing the stimulus to bark.
- Kennel modules are designed to house approximately 20 dogs only that do not face each other, arranged in a semicircular design, further reducing reactivity between the dogs.
- Generally, in a kennel environment, most noise occurs first thing in the morning when the dogs are allowed out to toilet and are waiting to be fed. Due to the kennel design and

- reduced number of dogs in each module, the dogs will not be anxious to get out to toilet and can be given their bowls of food quickly reducing anticipatory excitement barking.
- Kennel stress can cause significant breakdown in behaviours over time unless managed by reducing the number of dogs per area, offering choice, and reducing sound stimulus from multiple distressed dogs (ASPCA and other welfare organisations support smaller numbers of dogs housed together as good husbandry and welfare practices).
- The dogs will benefit from a structured routine, similar to their previous kennel experiences, with the addition of more choices, such as inside-outside access, and a gentle introduction to new pet life experiences will assist in reducing stress behaviours such as excessive barking.
- The dogs will have the opportunity to engage in enrichment activities including, utilising the landscape elements within the social play space, positive social interactions with other social dogs, 1:1 training such as basic obedience, swimming, enrichment feed puzzles etc to ensure their mental, physical, social, and cognitive needs are met which will reduce the likelihood of boredom and stress.
- The design of the kennel modules to face east with the dog kennels radiating outwards ensure any barking is deflected east away from the property's neighbours, to improve sunlight access in the kennels for the comfort of the dogs and to shelter the kennels from the strong westerly winds.
- The front of the kennel modules will be made up of a large curved rammed earth or similar wall designed to absorb sound.
- Each kennel module will have acoustic walls between approximately every 4th kennel. Additional acoustic material will be added to the walls and roof also.
- Visual stimuli will also be reduced in the yards using mounds and vegetation as well as the positioning of each of the kennel modules to block the view into other kennel blocks.
- A 2008 University of Pennsylvania study found that Greyhounds are one of the least aggressive dog breeds towards strangers, owners, and other dogs.

Direct Management of noisy dogs
- An onsite manager will monitor the noise outside of hours and will be trained to be able to assess and manage distressed dogs.
- Any dog identified as noisy will be behaviourally and medically assessed and a management plan will be developed. Some of the strategies could include;
  - Moving the dog to a more compatible kennel module or kennel
  - Matched and housed with a compatible dog to reduce isolation distress
  - Placement of an adaptil (pheromone calming) collar or adaptil plugin
  - Housing the dog inside in a soundproof/reduced kennel.
  - Increased enrichment - mental and physical stimulation

The above was compiled by the following persons.

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Wayne Billett, MBA Deputy Chief Executive Officer, 40+ yrs. working in the greyhound industry

References

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