



Melissa Starling

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INFORMATION STATEMENT FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS
Race Day Behaviour in the Racing Greyhound

(1) What is the study about?

The study will investigate how behaviour and surface temperature of greyhounds may relate to performance on the race-track.

(2) Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by Dr Melissa Starling, Postdoctoral Fellow, within the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Research Group in the Faculty of Veterinary Science. The study is funded by Greyhound Racing NSW and is being conducted with their full knowledge and approval.

(3) What does the study involve?

The study involves collecting observational data of greyhounds at vetting, when they are kennelled, and immediately before, during and immediately after races. This observational data includes videos of the dogs and thermal images taken of the dogs' faces using an infrared camera. The focus of the study is on dogs, and no images will be collected specifically of dog owners or trainers.

(4) How much time will the study take?

Data will be collected at race meets. You may be asked to hold your dog still for approximately 10 seconds to obtain thermal images either on the vetting table or before or after races, but the researchers will be trying to avoid delaying procedures at the race meet. As such, minimal extra time will be required to take part in the study.

(5) Can I withdraw my dog(s) from the study?

Being in this study is completely voluntary - you are not under any obligation to consent and - if you do consent - you can withdraw, your dog(s) at any time without affecting your relationship with the University of Sydney or Greyhound Racing NSW. Full withdrawal is possible for thermal images and video at vetting, but videos of races may include your dog necessarily. You may indicate that we should exclude your dog from analysis so that its behaviour will not contribute to the study's results, but this will affect the accuracy of the data collected. Given races are already recorded and available for public viewing, we hope that you will allow us to use this data.

(6) Will anyone else know the results?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers will have access to information on your dog(s). A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report. Any personal information collected during the project will be kept confidential.

(7) Will the study benefit my dogs?

The study will identify greyhound behaviour that may be associated with distress and/or performance at the racetrack. It will therefore benefit racing greyhounds on the whole. The study may reveal dogs that are distressed at the racetrack. You can nominate if you wish to receive feedback on this or not. It is possible the study will reveal ways to improve racing performance.

(8) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you may tell anyone about the study.

(9) What if I require further information?

When you have read this information, Melissa Starling will discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact Melissa Starling on 0431255918.

(10) What if I have a complaint or concerns?

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact the Animal Welfare Veterinarian, University of Sydney on (02) 8627 8132 (Telephone).

This information sheet is for you to keep