

## RCÉ KENNEL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Board of RCE recognise that, heretofore, the main method of distribution of funding through the greyhound racing industry, has been prizemoney. The Kennel Improvement Programme was devised to ensure money is available to the greyhound Industry to assist in the modernisation and ongoing improvement of the surroundings within which greyhounds are kept, with a view to improving the welfare of these animals

### **BACKGROUND**

The Board of RCE has taken the decision to assist the greyhound industry in accepting applications for funding to subsidise construction works which are necessary to improve the welfare of the greyhounds residing there. RCE proposes that on receipt of a successful application that it will assist the applicant with a contribute up to 75% of the cost to a maximum of €2,500. The Board has ringfenced €100,000 per annum for this project and once the initial fund has been allocated, applications will be suspended until the following year.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the Programme is to assist in the development and improvement of existing kennelling facilities within which greyhounds are kept in the Republic of Ireland. However, this Programme is not designed to facilitate the expansion of kennels.

### **APPLICATION**

#### Eligible Works

Any works that will improve the welfare of greyhounds owned and kept at a greyhound kennels. The works must take place on the property of the greyhound owner/trainer. If the property is not owned outright, a signed long lease (minimum 5 years) agreement must be in place. Works must be inspected and approved prior to commencement and must be deemed as necessary to tangibly improve the welfare and quality of life at greyhounds kept at that kennels/property. Registered trainers can apply for the scheme. The works must take place where the applicant keeps dogs at the premises. Premises must be in the Republic of Ireland

Example: An owner of a dog being kept at a professional kennels may not apply for improvement works at that kennels as they do not have a tangible interest in those facilities and may remove the animals to better facilities should they chose to. However, if owner is a professional trainer, they may apply.

- If Kennels are leased/rented, then a copy of the lease/rental agreement must be submitted.
- Kennel Site must be visited and deemed necessary to the improvement of animal welfare on site by a GRI Welfare Officer, this may include works identified upon a satisfactory welfare

inspection as necessary. In this case, the visit where the works were discussed and recorded on the inspection sheet may count as the first visit.

- An Owner/Trainer can only benefit from this programme once.
- Successful Owners/Trainers may be asked to furnish three quotes for the works approved prior to payment.
- Premises that avail of this programme are then precluded from availing of this programme for at least 5 years.
- Payment will only occur after a second satisfactory site visit by the same welfare Officer and a paid invoice has been supplied as proof of payment.
- An Independent Engineers certificate that all construction methods employed, and materials are up to the required specifications and regulations, may be requested.

#### Examples of Eligible works

Example	Tangible Benefit
Replacement of Vented Windows within the kennels from single pane to double glazed (Must have a facility to allow windows to vent or open to allow cooling during the summer)	Warmer Kennels in winter time with the possibility of ventilation in summer time
Replacement of Kennel Doors with Insulated Lockable Doors that are to buildings standards	Warmer Kennels in Wintertime, Greater Security of Kennels
Improved Drainage facilities in Kennels	Improved Drainage improves welfare of animals in kennels
Re-roofing of Kennels Facilities using Quality Insulated materials	Better insulated kennels ensuring warmer in wintertime
Installation of Automated/Piped Water drinkers to greyhound gallops	Ensure dogs have access to water at all times.

#### Ineligible Works

- Works that have begun before the Official Launch of the programme
- Works that have begun before a visit by RCE Welfare Officers have taken place
- Works that are not necessary to tangibly improve the welfare of the animals kept at the property

### Examples of Ineligible Works

Example	Reason for exclusion
Installation of a Sand gallop	Does not improve greyhound welfare
Installation of a bigger/better walking device	Does not improve greyhound welfare
Installation of Interior Spec Doors to Outside Openings	Materials used are not fit for <i>the</i> purpose they are being used and not to building regulations
Installation of Second-hand Doors to Kennels	Materials may not be to Building regulations Required

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Conditions of suitability to this programme will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. All works must fall within the conditions of the programme. RCÉ reserve the right to refuse applications. All dogs on the property must be RCETS compliant at the time of application and throughout the process until payment. Incomplete applications will not be accepted for consideration, the entire application form must be completed. Works must only be completed by a VAT registered construction operator, independent of the applicant. Preference will be given to kennels that have rehomed/retired greyhounds.

Applicant Kennels must remain compliant under the RCE Code of Practice for the care and welfare of greyhounds along with all greyhound welfare, animal welfare and veterinary medicines legislation throughout the process, up to the point of payment. Failure to comply, at any point, may result in suspension of the grant pending an investigation which may result in loss of the grant and rejection from the programme.