

NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Use of Site for a Greyhound
boarding, Training and Breeding
Establishment**

8-44 Keech Road, Castlereagh

1. INTRODUCTION

The following noise management plan has been prepared for Penrith City Council consideration and approval. The noise management plan should be read in conjunction with the Acoustic Assessment prepared by Noise and Sound Services and Environmental Noise Impact assessment prepared by Day Design Consulting.

2. OPERATION

The facility will operate in accordance with the recommendations in the Acoustical Assessment prepared by Noise and Sound Services. These recommendations have been confirmed by an independent acoustic consultant. Both consultants confirmed the facility complies with the NSW Government's Industrial Noise Policy Intrusiveness Criteria.

Managing feeding times

Feeding time is a period that can stimulate the dogs and may result in dogs within the barn and outside yards barking. Feeding will occur on a daily basis and be restricted to occur between 10:30am -11:00am. To reduce the likelihood and duration of any potential barking during feeding time all preparation will be completed for all dogs out of site in the facilities inside the barn. After the food has been prepared all dogs will be given the food at the same time. This will reduce the duration of any potential barking considerably.

Management of the exercise and long yards

One dog will exercise along the 175 metre track at any one time. Occasional short term barking may occur as the dog finishes the run at the eastern end of the site as it may interact with the pups in the outdoor yards. To mitigate this a handler will be present as the dog finishes the run it will be placed immediately on a lead and led back up to the barn. To reduce any potential interaction screening will be installed.

Management of dogs returning from race meets

Dogs returning from late night race meetings would typically occur two to three times a month and would typically involve two to three dogs. The returning dogs would not normally bark between the trailer and the barn as they are accompanied by a handler. Dogs within the barn may bark at the arrival of the returning dogs. To mitigate the potential impact of any noise the returning dogs will enter through the single door on the southern façade into the grooming area which is separated from the kennels by a plasterboard partition wall, thereby maintain the internal noise barrier between the kennels and the outside.

Additional Systems or Controls to reduce adverse impact

Experience has shown the potential for dogs to bark are when they are uncomfortable and need to urinate or pass faeces, when they are hungry, when they are bored through lack of regular stimulation or when they are distressed. Having a good understanding of the above causes allows appropriate controls to be put in place to reduce any adverse impacts of the facilities operation.

The facility will be managed to a strict routine with feeding times, use of empty yards and exercise occurring consistently at the same time every day. Experience has shown having the dogs in a regular routine reduces nuisance barking. Dogs will be released in to empty yards 4 times a day at regular intervals. When in the yards the dogs will be under constant supervision to mitigate barking. Regular stimulation of the dogs will occur through exercise in the yards and when they are taken to official race meets to trail or race. Distressed or injured dogs will be placed in an isolated sound proof kennel to reduce the interaction with remaining dogs. The facility will be managed by an experienced canine handler who has extensive experience and knowledge of greyhounds.

An important practice in developing well behaved kennel dogs is to ensure they become familiar with the racing and kennelling environment and, therefore, do not experience fear and excitement that may precipitate barking. This is done usually at a young age when pups are learning to race. They are sent away to a break in school where they have the opportunity to become familiar to the environment. To aid with this from a young age all pups will have constant interaction with people and will be taught basic handling skills such as walking on a lead.

The ensure the acoustic integrity of the kennels are maintained the roller door on the western side of the shed will only be opened when necessary to move the dogs to the exercise yards during the day. The door will remained closed and dogs will be kept inside the kennels between the hours of 10pm and 7am, 7 days a week.

Ongoing monitoring and review

All dogs temperaments are different which naturally lends itself to some dogs being better kennel dogs than others. It is important to be familiar with the behaviour and temperaments of every dog in the kennels and recognise if there are any disruptive dogs in the kennels. As one disruptive dog can result in unsettling of the remaining dogs in the kennels. With close supervision and monitoring a disruptive dog can be identified and dealt with as soon as possible with additional controls implemented to improve their behaviour if required. This may include temporary isolation with the use of a barking mussel for short periods when under supervision. As part of the ongoing monitoring it is important to continue this practice as new dogs enter the kennels as it can change the dynamic of the kennel.

As part of the ongoing monitoring of the facility, the kennels will be closely monitored when returning race dogs from meets late at night. If it is found that returning race dogs are disturbing the other sleeping dogs one strategy that could avoid disrupting the settled dogs in the barn is to place returning race dogs late at night in isolation overnight in temporary kennels located in the house to avoid any interaction with remaining dogs located in the barn. The returning race dogs could then be returned to their permanent kennel in the morning.

3. CONCLUSION

Operating the facility in accordance with the above noise management plan will ensure that the noise levels emitted by the facility complies with the EPA's acceptable noise limits at all nearby residential neighbours. Day Design Consulting has confirmed this by logging actual data during the day, evening and night over a 7 day period while the facility was under normal operation.