

Matings and Litters Registration Service

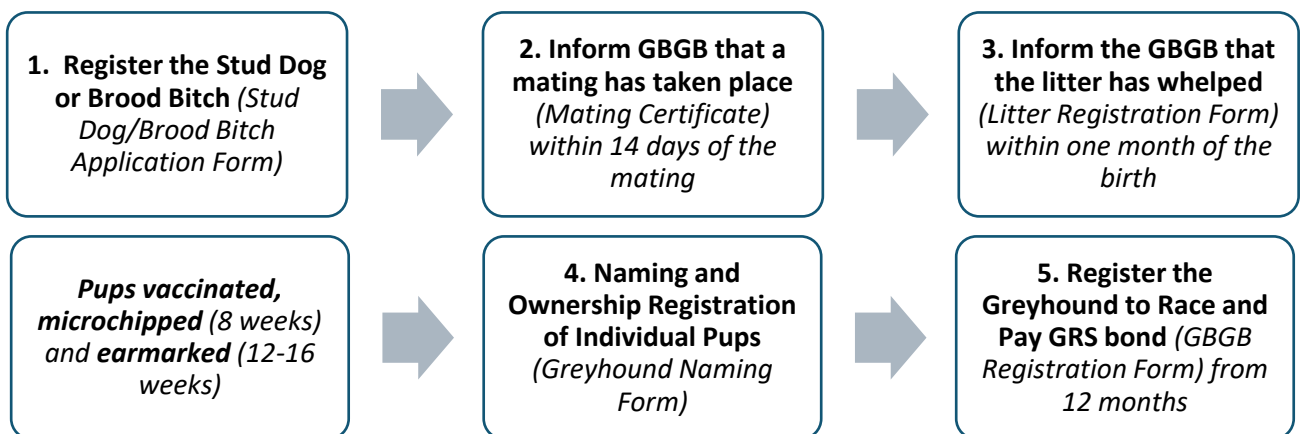
Guide for Breeders

The Greyhound Board of Great Britain's (GBGB) Mating and Litter Service enables breeders of British-bred litters of greyhounds – pups born and earmarked in Great Britain – to register all matings and litters directly with GBGB.

This document explains the steps involved and the paperwork which needs to be submitted to GBGB. A list of current fees can be found at the end of this document, along with the GBGB Matings and Litter Registration Policy which must be adhered to by all involved in the breeding process.

If you require further information, please email litters@gbgb.org.uk or call **0207 822 0900** (option 4). This email address should be used to submit all forms to GBGB, and payments can be taken over the phone.

Step-by-step process:



1. Register the Stud Dog or Brood Bitch on GBGB's British-Breeding Register (*Stud Dog/Brood Bitch Application Form*)

GBGB's British Breeding Register details all breeding greyhounds currently registered with GBGB. To register a litter with GBGB, both the dam and sire must already be registered on this Register.

To register a greyhound for breeding, the greyhound's owner(s) must complete the ***Stud Dog/Brood Bitch Application Form (Form 1)*** and submit it to GBGB along with the appropriate fee. An initial registration fee and annual renewal are to be paid for stud dogs only. The registration is free of charge for brood bitches and they do not need to be renewed once registered.

If the greyhound is in joint ownership, a 'lead person' is to be selected by the owners to authorise all ongoing paperwork. If the applicant(s) is not the registered owner of the greyhound, then they must apply for a transfer of ownership via the relevant Stud Book (e.g. the Greyhound Stud Book or Irish Coursing Club).

If the owner of the Stud Dog wishes to appoint an Authorised Agent, who will be present at all matings/semen draws, then they must complete the 'Appoint an Authorised Agent' section on the Application Form.

Once GBGB has completed all the checks, you will receive confirmation that your bitch/dog has been placed on the Register and from then on, all parties must abide by the Mating and Litters Registration Policy (a copy can be found at the bottom of this document).

Irish-bred greyhounds that are not destined to race on GBGB tracks but are intended to sire or have a litter do not need to be fully registered with the GBGB to race but will need to pay the annual fee to be retained on the British Breeding Register. If the dog/bitch is Irish-bred, GBGB will notify the ICC for their information.

2. Inform GBGB that a mating has taken place (*Mating Certificate*) – within 14 days of the mating

All matings of greyhounds on GBGB's British Breeding Register must be reported. To do so, a **Mating Certificate (Form 2)** is to be completed by the Stud Dog Keeper and submitted to GBGB within 14 days of the mating/semen draw.

It is important that the GBGB is promptly informed of all matings. There is **no fee** associated with registering a Mating Certificate, however, a £100 late reporting fine will be administered in the event of late notification of the mating (e.g. after 14 days).

Once the Mating Certificate is received, GBGB will check that both the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch are registered on its Register and that the mating is in line with the Policy criteria (for example, the age of the bitch, number of previous litters, that the number of matings/semen draws has not been exceeded).

All matings must be reported, even if they were not successful. If the reported mating did not result in pregnancy, the Breeder must inform GBGB as soon as possible.

3. Inform GBGB that the litter has whelped (*Litter Registration Form*) – within one month of the birth/co-signature of vet needed

Following the birth of a litter, the Breeder should submit a **Litter Registration Form (Form 3)** along with the appropriate fee. This must be submitted to GBGB within one month of the whelp date and must be co-signed by the veterinarian who has inspected the litter. On this

form, you will detail the number of puppies born, their colours, sex and information regarding any pups which have died following birth. It will also detail the name and contact details of all persons involved in the litter – including the Breeder, Whelping and Rearer (if different from the Breeder).

Once the litter has been registered by GBGB, you will be sent a **Certificate of Registration of Whelping** (Form 4A) by GBGB for your records, along with the correct amount of **Greyhound Naming Forms** (Form 4B) (one form per pup). The Naming Forms will need to be presented to the person implanting the microchips to attach the microchip number to each one, and then again to the Earmarking Steward who will stamp each pup's earmark onto it.

Microchipping – by 8 weeks

It is the law that every puppy should be microchipped by 8 weeks old and have their details registered on a Defra approved database. To support this and to strengthen the traceability of all puppies registered via its system, GBGB will provide you with a set of microchips which are included in the litter registration fee.

The microchips will be registered with AVID's PETtrac database for the period prior to the individual greyhound's registration to race with GBGB, at which point they will be transferred to GBGB's racing greyhound database (Greyhound Chip ID).

How will this work?

On the **Litter Registration Form (Form 3)**, you are required to nominate the veterinarian or suitably qualified implanter who will be implanting the litter's microchips. If the implanter is not a qualified vet, GBGB will need to be sent proof they are competent and have received suitable training (see: [Implantation of cat and dog microchips - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/implantation-of-cat-and-dog-microchips)).

GBGB will then send the nominated vet/implanter the set of microchips for implantation by eight weeks. It does not matter which microchip is inserted into which puppy, but they must only be used for greyhounds in that specific litter. Any lost or unused microchips must be promptly reported to GBGB.

Earmarking – between 12 – 16 weeks

GBGB will organise for an Earmarking Steward to attend the litter between 12 and 16 weeks. You do not need to request this. GBGB will inform you of your Steward's details and they will contact you directly to arrange a suitable time to visit. Prior to their visit, you will be required to send GBGB proof of completion of the litter's puppy primary vaccination course as this must be done prior to earmarking (Rule 60).

During their visit, the Earmarking Steward will record each pup's unique earmark on the Naming Form and will complete a visual 'markup' of the puppies' unique markings on an

Earmarking Request Form (From 4C). The Steward will have been sent this form directly by GBGB, the Breeder or Owner does not need to complete or submit this form to GBGB.

The whole litter must be accounted for at the time of earmarking, including any deceased pups. If any pups are not going to be registered to race (e.g. non-chasers, destined for showing, homed as a pet) the details of the reason and their new owner or homing centre placement must be promptly shared with GBGB.

All British-bred puppies are required to have had suitable pain-relief, as prescribed by their veterinary surgeon, prior to the earmarking procedure.

4. Naming and Ownership Registration of Individual Pups (*Greyhound Naming Form*)

Each puppy should now be vaccinated, microchipped and earmarked. A **Greyhound Naming Form** (4B) can now be submitted for each pup that will be registered to race at GBGB licensed racecourses. The Naming Form is used to choose the greyhound's racing name, and it also provides GBGB with the details of the greyhound's racing owner. If the pup is being transferred to a new owner, the Breeder must sign the declaration on the Naming Form which certifies that the greyhound is now the property of the new owner and disclaim any rights or share in its ownership.

On the back of the Naming Form is a mark-up diagram which should be completed by the greyhound's Breeder/Rearer. This is to record any special markings or accidental markings (scars etc.) which appear on the greyhound. This 'mark-up' must be done in addition to the one done by the Earmarking Steward when they earmark the pups and the full mark-up which is completed by a Local Official at the point at which the puppy is registered to race with GBGB.

When completing the Greyhound Naming Form, the racing owner should fill in their information and pick their choice of name for their greyhound, providing options in order of preference should their first choice not be available. If the greyhound has already changed ownership prior to being owned by its racing owner, then Section C of the form must be completed.

Once the Greyhound Naming Form has been processed, you will be sent a **GBGB ID Certificate** for the puppy which will include the greyhound's unique ID number. You will then be eligible to register your greyhound to race once they are 12 months of age.

If you wish to register the greyhound as part of a syndicate. You will need to complete a GBGB Syndicate Registration Form. The Syndicate name will be checked to ensure that it is available and appropriate, then if approved there will be a one-off fee payment to register.

5. Register the Greyhound to Race and pay GRS Bond (*GBGB Registration Form*) – from 12 months

From 12 months of age, the greyhound will be eligible to be registered to race with GBGB. This process is handled by the greyhound's trainer. A **GBGB Registration Form** can be obtained from a GBGB-licenced racecourse, or the trainer can contact the GBGB Registry Department directly to be sent a copy.

To complete the greyhound's registration, the form must be completed and a Local Official at the racecourse will take a full mark-up of the greyhound and a Point of Registration (POR) Sample (or POR Waiver Form, if applicable).

At this point, as the registration fee has already been paid when the Owner sent in their Naming Form, the Owner will just need to pay the **Greyhound Retirement Scheme (GRS) bond payment** to GBGB to activate the greyhound for racing.

To support British-breeding, GBGB continues to run a £100 GRS dispensation for all British-bred greyhounds. This means that GBGB contributes £310 per greyhound, rather than the equal £210 owner/GBGB split for Irish-bred greyhounds.

After registration for racing, any transfer of ownership and/or change of racing name can be done via contacting GBGB (£26 per transfer, £81 per change of racing name).

GBGB Matings and Litters Registration Service – Fees

Contact litters@gbgb.org.uk or call **0207 822 0900 (option 4)**. All payments can be made by phone.

<p>British Breeding Register – Stud Dog/Brood Bitch Application</p>	<p>£25 for stud dogs, payable per annum on renewal.</p> <p>No fee for brood bitches (one-off application).</p> <p>Stud dogs currently registered with the ICC and intended to sire British-bred litters can apply to join GBGB’s British Breeding Register (full GBGB registration to race will not be required).</p>
<p>Registering a mating</p>	<p>Free of charge when reported within required 14 days (£100 late submission fine).</p>
<p>Register a litter of British-bred puppies</p>	<p>£60 per litter; includes supply of microchips for implementation by nominated vet/implanter, plus earmarking by GBGB Earmarking Steward.</p>
<p>Naming of Individual Pups & Ownership Registration / GBGB Registration to Race</p>	<p>£66 fee per British-bred greyhound administered via GBGB’s Litter Registration Service.</p> <p><i>Only the GRS bond remains payable before the greyhound can race.</i></p>
<p>Greyhound Retirement Scheme (GRS) bond payment</p>	<p>£110 Greyhound Retirement Scheme (GRS) bond payable before a greyhound can race.</p> <p><i>GBGB continues to offer a £100 GRS dispensation for all British-bred greyhounds, meaning GBGB contributes £310 per greyhound, instead of the £210 equal owner/GBGB contribution applied to Irish-bred greyhounds.</i></p>
<p>New Syndicate Registration</p>	<p>£30</p>

Mating and Litter Registration Policy

Overview

This policy applies to all individuals using GBGB's Matings and Litter Registration service to register matings and subsequent litters of British-bred greyhounds (greyhounds born and earmarked in England, Scotland, or Wales).

It is the responsibility of all persons whelping and caring for a litter to ensure they are familiar with and compliant with all current animal welfare and dog breeding legislation and regulations in their nation and specific locality. Where required, breeders must hold a valid and in-date local authority dog breeding licence.

The emotional, physical, and behavioural needs of all greyhounds must be met at every stage during mating, whelping and rearing, and through to their retirement from breeding. This includes providing an appropriate and secure environment, suitable nutrition, positive social interactions, handling and enrichment, proactive healthcare and good kennel biosecurity.

All persons involved in the care of a stud dog and/or a brood bitch and her litter must be competent and appropriately knowledgeable in canine breeding husbandry and management to ensure that the welfare of stud dogs, breeding bitches and puppies is protected.

Stud Dog / Brood Bitch Selection

- All greyhounds used for breeding must have up-to-date and valid vaccinations as directed by their veterinary surgeon, and valid vaccination records.
- Greyhounds diagnosed with a heritable disease or condition (e.g. cryptorchidism or chronic superficial keratitis) should not be bred from. No greyhound should be used for breeding if doing so may negatively affect their either their health or welfare or that of their puppies.
- Overuse of a stud dog should be avoided, as this may reduce genetic diversity and affect population fitness.
- It is recommended that brood bitches should be examined by a veterinary surgeon prior to each breeding, and that stud dogs receive an annual veterinary inspection (e.g., during an annual booster vaccination appointment) to ensure their suitability for breeding in terms of good physical and physiological health.

- A stud dog or brood bitch must be at least 18 months of age before mating.¹
- Under the [Animal Welfare \(Licensing of Activities Involving Animals\) \(England\) Regulations \(2018\)](#), a licence holder must ensure that a bitch does not give birth to more than one litter in any 12-month period and must not whelp more than six litters in total.
- It is not recommended for a bitch to have her first litter at six years of age or older².
- It is not recommended that a bitch should not be bred from if she is eight years or older³, unless a veterinary surgeon (M/FRCVS) has examined the bitch and provided the breeder with a letter stating that breeding is not expected to be detrimental to the bitch's health and welfare. This letter must be lodged with GBGB prior to mating.
- A female greyhound shall not participate in either a race or a trial if she is in season (Rule 56) or if she is pregnant.
- In line with the [Animal Welfare \(Licensing of Activities Involved Animals\) \(England\) Regulations \(2018\)](#), no pregnant bitch may be transported after 54 days from the date of mating, unless the transportation is to a veterinary practice. The brood bitch must not be transported within 48 hours after whelping, except to a veterinary practice in a circumstance where it is either not appropriate or not possible for the vet to attend to the bitch at the whelping kennel.
- A brood bitch shall not race or trial for at least ten weeks after the whelping date and she must have regained her physical condition and fitness before returning to competition. This should be considered on an individual greyhound basis, as some bitches may require longer than 10 weeks to regain physical condition and fitness.

Registering the Mating

- The stud keeper or authorised agent must inform the GBGB of a mating within 14 days of it taking place.
- Bitches in season should be securely accommodated apart from males when breeding is not planned. In the exceptional circumstance of an accidental mating, this must also be reported to the GBGB within 14 days.

¹ Under the [Animal Welfare \(Licensing of Activities Involving Animals\) \(England\) Regulations \(2018\)](#), a bitch must not be mated if she is under 12 months of age. Best-practice breeding guidance recommends all bitches must be at least 18 months old before they are used for mating taking into account size and skeletal maturity. Similarly, while there is no legal minimum age for stud dogs, best-practice breeding guidance recommends that dogs should be at least 18 months of age to ensure full physical maturity and optimal fertility.

² EU Platform on Animal Welfare, *Welfare in Pet Trade: Responsible Dog Breeding Guidelines* (2020). Available at: [aw_platform_plat-conc_guide_dog-breeding.pdf](#).

³ EU Platform on Animal Welfare, *Responsible Dog Breeding Guidelines*.

Artificial Insemination

- Canine artificial insemination (AI) must only be performed in accordance with all relevant legislation and regulations. In the UK, surgical artificial insemination (AI) is not legally permitted, and all forms of non-surgical canine AI (intravaginal and transcervical) are considered acts of veterinary surgery. It is illegal for anyone other than a veterinary surgeon (F/MRCVS) to artificially inseminate a bitch in the UK.
- In line with current Greyhound Stud Book requirements, a stud dog must not perform more than 14 services and/or semen collections per calendar month⁴.

Registering the Litter

- Breeders must notify GBGB if a bitch has a caesarean operation. Bitches should not be bred again after one caesarean unless, prior to mating, GBGB is provided with a letter from a veterinary surgeon (F/MRCVS) who has examined the bitch which states that further breeding is not expected to be detrimental to the bitch's health or welfare⁵.
- In accordance with Greyhound Stud Book requirements, a veterinary surgeon must examine the litter within one month of birth and sign the Litter Registration Form to confirm the composition and the consistency of the puppies' appearance with the reported whelping date⁶.
- All puppies whelped in a litter must be accounted for. Records of all pup deaths must be kept for each litter whelped and reported on the Litter Registration Form. This should include the date of death and details of the circumstances/cause of death (e.g. illness, stillbirth, trauma).
- Under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations (2018), no pup less than eight weeks of age may be transported without its mother, except in an emergency or if under veterinary instruction.

Vaccinations, Microchipping and Earmarking

- The breeder must ensure each puppy is microchipped in line with current legislation and the breeder or owner must be registered as the first keeper/owner on an approved microchip database.
- All puppies must correctly complete a primary vaccination course before being earmarked (Rule 60). The puppy primary vaccination course must be followed by appropriate booster vaccinations, as instructed by the attending veterinary surgeon.

⁴ Greyhound Stud Book, *AI Rules* (Available at: [AI Rules | Greyhound Stud Book & National Coursing Club](#)).

⁵ EU Platform on Animal Welfare, *Responsible Dog Breeding Guidelines*.

⁶ The Greyhound Stud Book and National Coursing Club, [NCC Bye-law T Registrations](#).

- Greyhounds must be earmarked between 12–16 weeks of age (Rule 28).
- The entire litter must be accounted for at the time of earmarking. If any puppy is not being registered to race, GBGB must be informed of the reason and the details of its new pet owner or homing centre placement.
- All British-bred greyhounds should be given appropriate analgesia for the earmarking procedure as prescribed by a veterinary surgeon, unless there is a clinical contraindication.