

The Welfare of Racing Greyhound Regulations 2010

Draft Guidance to greyhound track operators and regulators

This guidance note is provided to support greyhound track operators and regulators. The Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010 (the “Regulations”) come into force on [***] and this guidance helps explain in more detail some of the requirements contained in the licensing conditions of the Regulations and also sets out other helpful advice.

Licensing of operators

- Paragraph 3 of the Regulations permits a person to operate a track without a licence if they are regulated by a body which is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) in relation to the service of the regulation of greyhound racing tracks. A list of the bodies currently accredited by UKAS to provide certification services can be found on their website at:

http://www.ukas.com/about_accreditation/accredited_bodies/certification_body_schedules.asp

Conditions of the licence

Condition 1: Attendance of a veterinary surgeon

- A veterinary surgeon who is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons must be present at every race meeting and trial. It is a requirement that the attending veterinary surgeon is present for the duration of the race/trial meeting and prior to that in order to check that the dogs are fit to run. It is recommended that the veterinary surgeon is present until the last dog has fully recovered from the last race or trial and it is expected that the veterinary surgeon would not leave the racetrack until the last greyhound that he/she has been attending to has left the racetrack.
- In addition to being a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, it is desirable that vets in attendance at greyhound races/trials have some degree of further experience in this area. Possible ways to demonstrate this experience would include:
 - Completion of the Professional Development Phase (PDP) with at least 50% of the work completed in the PDP to be related to small animals.
 - Attendance at 3 greyhound races/trials with an experienced greyhound veterinary surgeon (i.e. a veterinary surgeon who regularly attends greyhound races/trials).
 - Attendance at a small animal emergency management course within the last 3 years.
 - Attendance at a professional development course focussed on the racing greyhound within the last 3 years.

- It is also recommended that the veterinary surgeon be provided with a flat area on which to examine dogs prior to running. This area should be close enough to the track to allow the veterinary surgeon to continue to monitor racing or trialling.

Condition 2: Facilities for the attending veterinary surgeon

- The minimum requirements for the veterinary facilities which must be provided at the track are set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulations. In addition, the following are recommended:
 - The vet is provided with facilities for clinical waste disposal.
 - A means of monitoring racing/trialling from the veterinary room is provided i.e. via a closed-circuit television linked to the track system.
 - A list of local veterinary practices to which dogs can be referred to if necessary is maintained in the veterinary room.

Condition 3: Kennels

- The minimum requirements for kennels are set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulations. Kennels must be provided for at least 1 in 5 greyhounds which are present at the track for the purpose of taking part in a race or trial. For example – where 56 dogs are present then 12 kennels must be provided. Where 61 dogs are present, 13 kennels must be provided.
- There is no compulsory requirement for a greyhound to be kennelled during a race meeting or trial. It is recommended that greyhounds are not left in vehicles during race meetings or trials, particularly in hot weather or after racing. Leaving a greyhound in a vehicle in conditions that could compromise the welfare of greyhound would be an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Condition 4: Identification of greyhounds

- Dog identification databases that meet the requirements outlined in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Regulations include those who adhere to the Microchip Advisory Group Code of Practice and the database provided by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. The secretariat for the Microchip Advisory Group is provided by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) and further information about this group and the Code of Practice is available on the BSAVA website – <http://www.bsava.com/Advice/MicrochipAdvice/tabid/154/Default.aspx>
- The track manager must ensure every greyhound raced or trialled at the track is registered under their current owner's name with a database meeting the requirements outlined in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Regulations. To achieve this requirement, it is recommended that the track manager checks the microchip identification of each dog and requires the owner/trainer to show paperwork

confirming that the microchip implanted within the dog is registered with an appropriate database and that the owner registered with the database is the same as the owner registered at the track.

Condition 5: record of greyhounds racing

- The minimum requirements for the details of the records to be kept are set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

Condition 6: Injury records

- It is recommended that injury records are reviewed by the veterinary surgeon and track manager on a regular basis to determine if injury rates are changing. If injury rates are increasing, it is recommended that the veterinary surgeon and track manager work together to try to determine the cause of increased injury rate and to address any problems identified.