

[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

# Consultation on the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010

April 2009

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR  
Telephone 020 7238 6000  
Website: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

© Crown copyright 2009  
Copyright in the typographical arrangement and design rests with the Crown.

This publication (excluding the royal arms and departmental logos) may be re-used free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is re-used accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as crown copyright and the title of the publication specified.

Information about this publication and further copies are available from:

Defra  
Animal Welfare Act Implementation Team  
Area 8B, No 9 Millbank  
c/o 17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR  
Tel: 0207 238 5991  
Email: [Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

This document is available on the Defra website:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/greyhound-welfare/index.htm>

Published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

# Contents

<b>Part I – This Consultation</b>	<b>4</b>
Scope of Consultation	4
Basic Information	4
Background	5
<b>Part II – Executive Summary</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Part III – Summary of the current situation</b>	<b>7</b>
Background	7
Government calls for reform	7
The Donoughue Report – the Greyhound Board of Great Britain	8
UKAS Accreditation	8
Independent tracks	9
The Animal Welfare Act 2006	9
<b>Part IV – Proposals for Regulations</b>	<b>10</b>
Proposal for minimum standards and a licensing scheme	10
Exemption for tracks belonging to a UKAS accredited organisation	10
Definitions of racing and trailing	11
Minimum standards / Licensing conditions	11
<b>Part V – Impact Assessment</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Part VI – Draft Statutory Instrument and guidance</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Part VII – Responding to this consultation</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Annexes</b>	
<b>Annex A – Summary of Questions</b>	
<b>Annex B – Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Annex C – Draft Statutory Instrument</b>	
<b>Annex D – Draft guidance</b>	
<b>List of consultees</b>	

# Consultation on The Welfare of Racing Greyhound Regulations 2010

## Part I – This Consultation

### Scope of the consultation

<b>Topic of this consultation:</b>	This consultation is seeking views on Defra's proposals to introduce minimum welfare standards for all greyhound racing tracks and to require any greyhound racing track that does not belong to a body that has United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation in respect of the enforcement of the standards set out in these proposals to be licensed – see Part 4 below.
<b>Scope of this consultation:</b>	This consultation is <u>not</u> aimed at seeking evidence as to whether greyhound racing should be banned. The Government is satisfied that there is nothing inherently cruel about greyhound racing. This consultation is seeking views on the proposals Defra has put forward to regulate the welfare standards at greyhound racing tracks in England and to improve the traceability of greyhounds which have left the sport. There are a number of questions which we would like to hear people's views on and a summary of these questions can be found at Annex A.
<b>Geographical scope:</b>	Animal welfare is a devolved matter. These regulations will apply to greyhound racing tracks in England only.
<b>Impact Assessment:</b>	An Impact Assessment is included in this consultation and can be found at: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/greyhound-welfare/index.htm">http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/greyhound-welfare/index.htm</a>

### Basic Information

<b>To:</b>	We would like to hear from: greyhound tracks, greyhound bodies, greyhound practitioners, retired greyhound organisations, animal welfare groups, local authorities, veterinarians, and anyone else concerned about greyhound welfare.
<b>Body/bodies responsible for the consultation:</b>	Defra - Animal Welfare Act Implementation Team
<b>Duration:</b>	30 April 2009 to 22 July 2009
<b>Enquiries:</b>	Enquiries about the content or scope of the consultation can be addressed to Peter Hall 020 7238 5981 email <a href="mailto:Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk">Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk</a> Requests for hard copies can also be obtained from the above email address or Defra, Animal Welfare Act Implementation Team, Area 8B, No 9 Millbank, c/o 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR or Tel: 0207 238 5991
<b>How to respond:</b>	Please send responses to either: Peter Hall, Defra, Animal Welfare Act Implementation Team, Area 8B, No 9 Millbank, c/o 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR or email: <a href="mailto:Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk">Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk</a> clearly stating the name of the consultation in the subject header eg: Regulations – Greyhounds.
<b>Additional ways to become involved:</b>	As these regulations affect only a small industry, and following discussions with a number of those affected, this will be a purely written exercise.
<b>After the consultation:</b>	We intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. We will also summarise all responses and aim to place this summary by the 30 September 2009 on our website at

	<a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp">http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp</a> .
<b>Compliance with the Code of Practice on Consultation:</b>	This consultation complies with the Code of Practice on Consultation.

## Background

<b>Getting to this stage:</b>	<p>At present there are no specific animal welfare regulations for greyhound racing. The only current animal welfare legislation that covers racing greyhounds at greyhound racing tracks is the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Act makes it an offence to cause an animal unnecessary suffering or fail to provide for the welfare needs of an animal under the control of man. Greyhound racing is divided into two sectors – those tracks regulated by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) and those who operate independently of the GBGB – known as ‘independents’. The GBGB – which has recently assumed the regulatory role of the now dissolved National Greyhound Racing Club (NGRC) and the promotional role of the British Greyhound Racing Board (BGRB) – enforces the welfare standards at tracks wishing to belong to the GBGB. There is no similar enforcement of welfare standards at independent tracks.</p> <p>The Animal Welfare Act 2006 provides powers to the Secretary of State to introduce regulations for activities which involve animals. Both the greyhound racing industry and animal welfare organisations consider that further welfare protection was required for greyhounds used in racing. The welfare standards of greyhound racing have been an increasing public concern for a number of years and during debates in Parliament on the Animal Welfare Bill. The Government agreed that there should be additional regulations introduced under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to help promote the welfare of greyhounds used in racing.</p>
<b>Previous engagement:</b>	<p>Defra held a public consultation on the Animal Welfare Bill between January and April 2002. A number of the responses indicated that Government should be looking to introduce regulations for greyhound racing. During the progress of the Animal Welfare Bill through Parliament (parliamentary session 2005-06), the need for greyhound racing to be subject to regulation was debated a number of times.</p> <p>Defra has already engaged with stakeholders extensively on this subject. Defra has organised a number of working groups (the Greyhound Welfare Working Group, the Greyhound Regulations Working Group and the Greyhound Veterinary Working Group) consisting of welfare groups, the main greyhound industry bodies, veterinary bodies, local authorities and the devolved administrations to discuss the welfare issues surrounding greyhound racing and the scope of possible regulations. Defra officials have also held meetings with a number of independent tracks to discuss these matters and how regulations would impact on them.</p>

## Part II - Executive Summary

2.1 This consultation is seeking your views on Defra's proposals to introduce a set of minimum welfare standards for all greyhound racing tracks and a licensing requirement for those tracks that do not belong to a body which has been accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to enforce at a minimum, those standards required under these regulations. There are a number of questions we are especially keen to hear your views on and these are contained in Part 4 of this consultation document. A list of these questions are also summarised in Annex A. We are also interested to hear any other comments you may have on these proposals.

2.2 A copy of the draft Statutory Instrument and guidance, as well as the Impact Assessment, for these proposals are also enclosed in this consultation.

2.3 These proposals will require that all greyhound racing tracks must meet certain minimum welfare standards. These standards will either be enforced by a local authority or alternatively by a body which has secured UKAS accreditation in respect of the enforcement of these standards. All tracks must:

- have a veterinarian present at all race meetings and trials;
- ensure that the veterinarian has suitable veterinary facilities;
- ensure the veterinarian is able to examine each greyhound prior to racing or trialling;
- ensure that no greyhound participates in a race or trial if the veterinarian deems it is unfit to race for any reason;
- provide an adequate number of suitably ventilated kennels;
- keep records of all greyhounds who race or trial at the track;
- keep records of any greyhounds injured at the track; and
- only allow greyhounds which are microchipped and tattooed (with details on an appropriate national database) to race or trial at the track.

2.4 A local authority licence will last for no more than 3 years although local authorities will have powers to grant a licence for a shorter period if they believe a shorter licensing period is necessary.

2.5 Unless a track is exempted by virtue of belonging to a body which applies these minimum standards and has UKAS accreditation, it will be a criminal offence to operate a greyhound racing track without a local authority licence. The maximum penalties will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks (6 months until the commencement of section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003), or a fine not exceeding £5,000, or both.

2.6 This consultation is not seeking views as to whether greyhound racing should be banned, or whether the Government should set up its own regulatory body for greyhound racing tracks.

## **Part III – Summary of the current situation**

### **Background**

3.1 There are approximately 34 greyhound racing tracks in England. The sport is divided into two codes – greyhound racing tracks licensed by the industry regulatory body, and those tracks which operate outside the industry regulator. Until very recently the National Greyhound Racing Club (NGRC) was the body responsible for regulating the licensed sector of the industry in accordance with its Rules of Racing. Two of its main functions were to license greyhound tracks, trainers, owners, kennels and officials and to keep a register of owners and all greyhounds racing at tracks licensed by them. The NGRC was responsible for ensuring the welfare standards at 28 of the 34 greyhound racing tracks. In addition to the NGRC, there were two other bodies responsible for the regulated side of the sport. The British Greyhound Racing Board (BGRB) was seen as the sport's governing body and was responsible for the promotion of the sport. The British Greyhound Racing Fund (BGRF) was responsible for collecting the voluntary levy from bookmakers and managing the BGRB budget.

3.2 Those tracks that did not belong to the NGRC are referred to as 'independents'. The welfare standards at these tracks are, in common with the tracks in the regulated sector, governed by the welfare and cruelty offences contained in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 but otherwise there is no official organisation or body actively enforcing the welfare standards at these tracks.

### **Government calls for reform**

3.3 There have been concerns in recent years - supported by many in the industry as well as animal welfare organisations - that there are a number of welfare problems associated with the racing greyhound industry. Several news stories during the summer of 2006 focused on the fate of racing greyhounds when their racing careers had ended. The stories led to the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) setting up an inquiry into the welfare implications of greyhound racing.

3.4 The Government made it clear that the industry needed to undertake significant reform if it hoped to remain the main regulator of its own affairs. The Government called upon the industry's regulating and governing bodies to – as a minimum -

- obtain UKAS (the United Kingdom Accreditation Service) accreditation;
- significantly increase the funding it provided for welfare;
- appoint more stipendiary stewards; and
- have a more up-to-date name.

## **The Donoghue Report – the Greyhound Board of Great Britain**

3.5 In response to the growing calls for major reform, the industry approached the former agriculture minister Lord Donoghue of Ashton to conduct an enquiry into the sport and to make recommendations on how the sport should be regulated. The report was published in November 2007.

3.6 The Donoghue Report recommended a substantial number of reforms to the industry, including the replacement of the BGRB and the NGRC with one new overall body in charge of the industry – the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB)<sup>1</sup>. The Government welcomed the report and supports its main aim that the industry must adopt a more open and auditable approach to welfare matters if it is to remain self-regulated.

3.7 On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) replaced both the NGRC as the main regulator and the BGRB as the main promoter of the sport. The independent tracks still remain outwith the new body although, provided they meet the standards required of the GBGB, there is nothing preventing them joining the new body.

3.8 The GBGB enforces welfare standards at the 28 tracks formerly regulated by the NGRC. These standards include the need for a veterinarian to be present at all race meetings, the veterinarian to examine all greyhounds prior to racing, the veterinarian to be provided with suitable facilities, for suitably ventilated kennelling to be provided for every greyhound which races, for injury records to be kept and for only greyhounds tattooed and registered on their database to be allowed to race at a GBGB track.

## **UKAS Accreditation**

3.9 UKAS is the UK's National Accreditation Body (NAB). Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), UKAS is recognised as the sole UK organisation for the accreditation of certification, testing and inspection bodies to the EN 45000 and ISO 17000 series of standards. These bodies - the Conformity Assessment Bodies - in turn certify, test and inspect business' systems and products. UKAS is licensed by DIUS to use and confer the national accreditation symbols (formerly national accreditation marks) which symbolise Government recognition of the accreditation process. UKAS accreditation provides an assurance of the competence, impartiality and integrity of conformity assessment bodies<sup>2</sup>.

3.10 The Government still holds the view that the new body – the GBGB – must achieve recognition by UKAS. UKAS accreditation will demonstrate that the GBGB is a competent, impartial and capable regulator of its own affairs. The standards by which UKAS will assess the GBGB will be set in a

---

<sup>1</sup> *Independent Review of the Greyhound Industry in Great Britain – A Report by Lord Donoghue of Ashton*

<sup>2</sup> DIUS website - <http://www.dius.gov.uk/policy/standardisation/ukas.html>

normative document which will accompany the GBGB's application to UKAS. Defra has been assured that we will be consulted on the contents of this document and it will contain standards which will reflect the standards which we wish to set down in regulations.

## **Independent tracks**

3.11 Independent tracks have not been part of the reform process undertaken by the regulated sector. As mentioned above, there is no separate enforcement body monitoring welfare standards at the remaining six independent tracks operating in England. The Donoughue Report stated that the welfare standards that apply at independent tracks varied greatly, and it was likely that only a minority of tracks have standards which meet the minimum welfare standards at GBGB tracks<sup>3</sup>. A survey, funded jointly by the BGRB and the Greyhound Forum, of 15 of the then 18 independent greyhound racing tracks in England, Scotland and Wales was conducted in 2006. This survey found that, while welfare standards at some tracks were acceptable, standards did vary.

## **The Animal Welfare Act 2006**

3.12 The Animal Welfare Act 2006 confers on the appropriate national authority (in England - the Secretary of State for Defra) the power, exercisable by Statutory Instrument, to make regulations to provide for licensing or registration systems for certain activities involving animals. Subsection (5) specifies that the power can be used only to promote the welfare of animals for which a person is responsible, or the progeny of such animals.

3.13 During the passage of the Animal Welfare Bill through Parliament there was much debate about the need to provide additional regulatory safeguards for greyhound racing. It was evident that a number of peers and MPs had concerns about the welfare standards in greyhound racing. In response to these concerns, Lord Rooker committed the Government to bring forward regulations and guidance to ensure welfare standards at greyhound racing.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Independent Review of the Greyhound Industry in Great Britain – A Report by Lord Donoughue of Ashton Chapter 12 Independent Greyhound Racing Tracks*

## **Part IV – Proposals for Regulations**

### **Proposal for minimum standards and a licensing scheme**

4.1 Following lengthy discussions with stakeholders, our preferred option is to introduce regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which will set minimum animal welfare standards for all greyhound racing tracks in England as well as introduce a licensing requirement for those tracks that do not belong to a body which has accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to enforce at a minimum, those minimum standards. For tracks that require a licence, the minimum standards will form the licensing conditions. These are listed below – and include having a veterinarian present at all race and trial meetings. The licence will be for no more than three years and, for those tracks that are not exempted, it will be a criminal offence to operate without a licence. The maximum penalty for operating without a licence will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks (6 months until the commencement of section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003), or a fine not exceeding £5,000, or both. Should these proposals be acceptable to parliament we envisage that the regulations will come into force on 6 April 2010. A copy of the draft Statutory Instrument and guidance is enclosed with the consultation.

4.2 The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on our proposal to set minimum animal welfare standards for all greyhound racing tracks in England.

**Q1. Do you agree with introducing regulations setting minimum animal welfare standards for all tracks in England, or could this be achieved through a non-regulatory solution?**

**Q2. Subject to the exemption for tracks belonging to a body that has obtained UKAS accreditation - do you agree that there should be a licensing scheme for greyhound tracks in England?**

### **Exemption for tracks belonging to a UKAS accredited organisation**

4.3 We propose that any track that belongs to a body that has obtained UKAS accreditation in respect of the enforcement of the standards required in these regulations will not be required to be licensed by their local authority. In practice this means that should the GBGB be successful in obtaining UKAS accreditation (and maintain standards that at a minimum match the standards proposed in these regulations) then tracks affiliated to the GBGB will not require licensing. The Government is satisfied that UKAS accreditation will ensure that the GBGB is a modern, auditable and transparent regulator of these minimum welfare standards.

**Q3. Do you agree that if a body applies, at a minimum, those standards required under these regulations at the tracks which it regulates and is**

**accredited by UKAS then any tracks that are affiliated to it should be exempt from the proposed licensing scheme?**

## **Definitions of racing and trialing**

4.4 The licensing conditions will apply where greyhounds are being raced or trialed but not when greyhounds are being schooled. This is because we are not aware of any evidence that would make it proportionate to extend the regulations to schooling tracks or racing tracks that may offer schooling. Therefore we considered it necessary in the regulations to include a definition of racing and trialing.

4.5 For the purposes of these regulations we have defined racing and trialing as follows:

“race” – means the competing of running greyhounds at premises where facilities for betting are being provided in relation to that activity

“trial” – means the timing of a greyhound as it runs for the purpose of determining its position, or race category, in relation to any subsequent race.

**Q4. Do you agree that the licensing conditions should only apply where greyhounds are being raced or trialed?**

**Q5. Are the definitions of racing and trialing appropriate?**

## **Minimum standards / Licensing conditions**

### **Condition 1: Attendance of a veterinary surgeon**

4.6 The first minimum standard or condition of a licence will be that there must be a veterinarian present at all race meetings and trials. The veterinarian will be required to be in attendance for the duration of a race or a trial and before a race or a trial in order to undertake any of the required checks. The veterinarian will have two main duties – to inspect the greyhounds before they run, and to provide first aid for any injuries that may need treatment at the track. We believe that these duties should be within the competence of any RCVS registered practicing veterinarian. Therefore, we are not making it a requirement that the veterinarian should have any specialist qualifications. However, other desirable qualifications/training that a veterinarian may wish to obtain – or a track may wish to look for when recruiting a veterinarian – will be contained in the accompanying guidance – a draft of which is attached at Annex D. We understand that there may be a shortage of veterinarians willing to take on this type of work so we do not want to further restrict the supply of potential vets to greyhound tracks. We believe that the presence of a veterinarian is vital to improve and safeguard greyhound welfare. The presence of a veterinarian will encourage owners

and trainers to seek treatment where necessary and discourage owners and trainers from attempting to race or trial greyhounds that are not fit to run.

4.7 The veterinarian must examine each greyhound prior to racing or trialing and the track must provide adequate facilities for this to occur and ensure the vet has time to examine each greyhound in addition to attending to any greyhounds that require treatment or examination. The track operator must ensure that no greyhound participates in a race or trial that the veterinarian has ruled unfit to race/trial.

4.8 To demonstrate that a veterinarian has been in attendance at every race or trial the track operator must ensure that a register of attendance is kept at the track. This register must be kept for at least 3 years.

**Q6. Do you agree that there should be a veterinarian present at all race meetings and trials?**

**Q7. Do you agree that the veterinarian does not need any specialist qualifications/training other than being a RCVS registered practicing vet?**

**Q8. Is the list of desirable qualifications/additional training contained in the draft guidance attached at Annex D suitable? Are there any other qualifications/training that would be desirable?**

**Q9. Do you agree that the veterinarian must examine each greyhound prior to a race or trial?**

**Q10. Do you agree that a register of veterinarian attendance must be kept at the track to demonstrate that a veterinarian has been in attendance and that this register must be kept for at least 3 years?**

## **Condition 2: Facilities for the attending veterinary surgeon**

4.9 Each track must also provide the veterinarian with suitable facilities. These facilities are listed in paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 of the draft Statutory Instrument. These facilities can be contained in a permanent room or within a mobile facility provided by veterinarians themselves. From discussions with veterinarians, the industry and welfare groups we believe that as a minimum suitable facilities should include: a clean (and easily cleanable) lockable room (either static or mobile) with adequate heating and lighting, hot and cold running water, an examination table, a lockable cupboard suitable for storing drugs and a fridge and a freezer. The facilities should be located close to the area where a race or trial is being undertaken and any permanent room must be for the sole use of the vet. We believe on welfare grounds a veterinarian should have access to these facilities at a track. We believe the veterinarian's facilities must be situated close enough to the track to allow the vet to monitor racing while treating animals as well as to quickly reach all parts of the track in the event of an emergency.

**Q11. Do you agree that a veterinarian should have access to suitable facilities?**

**Q12. Are the facilities as described here and in Schedule 1 – paragraph 2 of the draft Statutory Instrument attached at Annex C suitable?**

**Q13. Should any permanent room be for the sole use of the veterinarian – including any time when a race or trial is not being undertaken? If you are replying on behalf of a greyhound track, would this require you to build such a room?**

### **Condition 3: Kennels**

4.10 All tracks will have to provide an adequate number of kennels to be available for greyhounds. We are aware that the GBGB already require that a kennel is needed for every greyhound that is to be raced and that all greyhounds must be kennelled prior to a race. We understand that there are integrity, as well as welfare, concerns behind this requirement. However, we have not seen sufficient evidence that, for welfare reasons, all greyhounds need to be provided with a kennel and kennelled prior to a race. We do accept that tracks should be required to provide a sufficient number of suitably ventilated kennelling for owners or trainers who take more than one dog to a track and have nowhere suitable to keep dogs while one dog is racing. We do not believe it is within the welfare interests of a dog to be kept in a vehicle between races or after racing unless the vehicle has suitable air-conditioning and the dogs are closely monitored. Tracks should make kennels available for those trainers or owners who may need to kennel their greyhounds during a race meeting. We will be requiring as a minimum each track to provide enough kennels to provide kennelling for at least 20% of greyhounds that are to race at each meeting or trial.

4.11 The minimum kennel standards are set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 of the draft Statutory Instrument. These standards require that the internal dimensions of each kennel should be a minimum of 136cm long by 87cm wide by 110cm high; walls and floors to be made of easily cleanable material; and kennels must be cleaned and dried between dogs. Also kennels must have adequate lighting to allow safe handling and examination of dogs; have a comfortable place for the greyhound to lie (any bedding must be changed between each dog); and be constructed in such a way so as to minimise risk of injury to the dogs within them. Kennels must have an airflow (this can be natural or artificial) to allow ventilation and should be constructed to allow the greyhound to be easily monitored. The temperature within kennels (when greyhounds are within them) should not be greater than 26°C or below 10°C and no more than one greyhound should be kept in a kennel. A kennel should also be available for veterinary surgeons to use for emergency cases. This should be within reasonable proximity to the veterinary surgeons room.

4.12 We are aware that some tracks may need to construct new buildings to meet this requirement. We have proposed that this requirement will not apply until one year after the rest of the requirements come into force. This is to allow tracks time to build such kennels.

**Q14. Do you agree that tracks should provide ventilated kennelling for at least 20% of greyhounds that race? If a different figure is required what evidence is there to support this figure?**

**Q15. Are the standards proposed here and in Schedule 1 – paragraph 3 of the draft Statutory Instrument attached at Annex C for kennels appropriate?**

**Q16. Should there be a 12 month interval before the requirement to provide kennels applies? If you are replying on behalf of a greyhound track, will this condition require you to build such kennels?**

#### **Condition 4: Identification of greyhounds**

4.13 To improve the traceability of greyhounds, tracks will only be allowed to race or trial greyhounds which have been permanently identified and the details placed on an appropriate national database. The two main forms of identification are tattooing and micro chipping. We propose that all greyhounds that are to be raced or trialled must be micro-chipped and tattooed. Greyhounds must be microchipped using a microchip that meets ISO (International Standards Organisation) Standard 11784 or Annex A of ISO Standard 11785. Microchip details must be placed on one of the national microchip databases which have attained the standards set out in Schedule 1, Part 2 of the draft statutory instrument. These standards are based on the standards required of the Microchip Advisory Group's code of practice for microchip databases and distributors. Further details of where you can find information about the databases which currently meet these standards is contained in the draft guidance at Annex D.

4.14 Track operators will be responsible for ensuring that all greyhounds that race or trial on their track are appropriately identified and registered. To ensure that all greyhounds that race or trial are microchipped track operators will need to obtain an appropriate microchip scanner to scan the microchip of every greyhound before it runs. Operators will also need to ask owners or trainers for evidence (usually a letter from the database operators) that the greyhound is registered on one of the appropriate databases.

4.15 Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, the owner of a greyhound is responsible for its welfare at all times. In addition, anyone temporarily looking after a greyhound (i.e. trainer) can also be held responsible for a greyhound. If a greyhound changes ownership, it is in the owner's interests to update the appropriate databases to ensure the most current owner can be held responsible in the event of any welfare concern being identified. This should

ensure that the requirement that all racing greyhounds be permanently identified will help improve the traceability of greyhounds.

**Q17. Should identification by both microchip and tattoo be required or is microchipping alone sufficient?**

**Q18. Do you agree that only databases which reach the standards set in Schedule 1, Part 2 of the draft Statutory Instrument attached at Annex C are appropriate databases for racing greyhounds to be registered on?**

**Q19. Do you agree that track managers should be responsible for ensuring that only greyhounds that are appropriately identified and registered are racing or trialling at their track?**

### **Condition 5: Record of greyhounds racing**

4.16 Tracks must keep records of all greyhounds racing or trialling on their track (either in electronic or paper format). Details must include the name and address of the owner and current trainer, and the greyhound's tattoo and microchip number. The track operator will have to require the owner and trainer to produce a means of photographic identification as proof of their name and address each time they enter any greyhound in a race or trial at that track for the first time. Tracks will be required to keep these records for 5 years.

**Q20. Are the details to be recorded – as described in paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 of the draft Statutory Instrument and above - appropriate? Are there any other details that should be recorded?**

**Q21. Do you agree that 5 years is an appropriate length of time for records to be kept?**

**Q22. Should both the owner and the trainer of a greyhound be required to produce identification the first time a greyhound runs at a track?**

### **Condition 6: Injury records**

4.17 Tracks will be required to keep injury records (either in electronic or paper format). The track veterinarian will need to record any injuries (including those injuries which result in a greyhound needing to be euthanased at the track) a greyhound has sustained during a race or a trial, along with the greyhound's microchip number, the treatment administered and the distance of any race or trial in which the injury occurred. We will also require that these records be kept by the track for 10 years. We believe such records will enable the track owner, in consultation with the veterinarian, to monitor trends in injuries over the long term and take action as appropriate. We have not seen any evidence that welfare standards would be raised if

individual tracks were required to publish this data and therefore there will not be such a requirement.

**Q23. Do you agree that tracks should be required to keep injury records?**

**Q24. Are the details to be recorded – as described in paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 of the draft Statutory Instrument and above - appropriate? Are there any other details that should be recorded?**

**Q25. Do you agree that 10 years is an appropriate length of time for injury records to be kept?**

## Part V – Impact Assessment

5.1 An Impact Assessment is attached at Annex B as part of this consultation exercise. The Impact Assessment presents and evaluates the relevant evidence on the positive and negative effects of the various options we have considered. Impact Assessments are required for all Government interventions affecting the private sector, the third sector and public services. Their preparation and publication ensure that those with an interest understand and can challenge:

- why the Government is proposing to intervene;
- how and to what extent new policies may impact on them; and
- the estimated costs and benefits of proposed and actual measures.

They also give affected parties an opportunity to identify potential unintended consequences.

5.2 We would be interested to receive any views on the Impact Assessment, particularly on the estimated costs and benefits of our proposals and – if you are replying on behalf of a greyhound track – how these proposals may impact on you.

**Q26. Do you agree that the suggested costs and benefits set out in the Impact Assessment are a reasonable estimate of the likely costs and benefits? If not, can you provide evidence of what any likely costs and benefits should be?**

**Q27. Does the estimated cost of building a new set of kennels seem reasonable? If not, can you provide evidence of what any likely costs and benefits should be?**

**Q28. Does the estimated cost of a local authority licence seem reasonable? If not, can you provide evidence of what the likely costs would be?**

## **Part VI – Draft Statutory Instrument and guidance**

### **Statutory Instrument**

6.1 Attached at Annex C is a draft of the proposed Statutory Instrument to introduce these proposed regulations. A number of specific questions about the requirements set out in this draft Statutory Instrument have been posed in this consultation. However, we would welcome any further comments about any aspect of the draft Statutory Instrument.

**Q29. Further to any questions on the draft Statutory Instrument already asked in this consultation, do you have any further comments on the draft Statutory Instrument attached at Annex C?**

### **Guidance code**

6.2 Attached at Annex D is a draft of the proposed guidance Defra will issue to accompany the regulations. The guidance helps explain in more detail some of the requirements contained in the licensing conditions of these regulations and also sets out other helpful advice. We would welcome comments about any aspect of the draft guidance, including whether the scope of the guidance is sufficient.

**Q30. Do you have any comments on the draft guidance attached at Annex D? Is the guidance detailed enough or would it be helpful if the guidance provided a more detailed explanation of all the requirements contained in the regulations?**

## Part VII - Responding to this consultation

7.1 We welcome your views on any aspects of the proposals contained in this consultation. We are particularly interested to hear your views on the specific questions asked throughout this consultation document. A summary list of these questions can be found at Annex A.

7.2 We are not consulting on whether greyhound racing should be banned. While the government agrees that there are genuine concerns about the welfare of greyhounds both during and after their racing life, we do not believe these problems are inherent in greyhound racing or are insurmountable. The government has no plans to ban greyhound racing. Neither has the government any plans to set up its own statutory regulatory body. Introducing a new body would require primary legislation and public funding. Due to the relatively small number of tracks and the steps that the GBGB are taking to ensure that any welfare problems are dealt with robustly we do not believe there is a case for introducing a new statutory body and we are not consulting on that option in this consultation.

7.3 Please send comments by **22 July 2009** to:

Peter Hall – Defra,  
Animal Welfare Act Implementation Team,  
Area 8B, No 9 Millbank,  
c/o 17 Smith Square,  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Or email: [Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Animalwelfareconsultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk) clearly stating the name of the consultation in the subject header eg: Regulations – Greyhounds.

Or fax: 020 7238 6009 clearly stating the name of the consultation and addressed to the Animal Welfare Act Implementation Team.