

2nd meeting of the GBGB Veterinary Sub-committee - 15th April 2010

Summary Notes

Rule amendments

- An amendment to GBGB Rule 173 as discussed at the past VSC meeting has been agreed by the GRB and GBGB and will now be presented to the Rules Review Committee (RRC). It is to be recommended to the RRC that it would be constructive if a vet were present at meetings where relevant rules are discussed.
- The presence of owner/s in the vet's room to witness treatment administered to an injured greyhound was discussed and a recommendation will be made to the RRC that GBGB Rule 111 be clarified and extended to include the vets room in order to ensure the safety of junior vets, to preserve the welfare of the greyhound and to maintain integrity.

Matters Arising

(i) Unlicensed Medication

- The sub-committee reviewed an article on unlicensed medication produced by Richard Payne and published in the April 9th edition of the GBGB Calendar.
- Following a discussion about recent Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) inspections at stadia, it was recommended that the VMD and track management arrange inspections in collaboration with the track vet to ensure their presence on the inspection date. A memo will be sent to all track vets highlighting the presence of inspection guidelines on the VMD website.
- It was agreed that the use of unlicensed medication by trainers should be reported on the Veterinary Inspection Form and to the GBGB Director of Regulation. It was also advised that if a vet suspects unlicensed medication use, that they use the complaints procedure (detailed at www.thedogs.co.uk/RulesofRacing.aspx), and notify the local Stipendiary Steward to allow the information to be followed up appropriately.
- It will be recommended that a veterinary representative attend a future meeting of the Stipendiary Stewards to discuss unlicensed medication use.

(ii) Biosecurity Advice for trainers

- A set of guidance notes detailing biosecurity protocols were debated and amended. A finalised version will be passed to the Welfare Standing Committee (WSC) for approval before being distributed. It is to be recommended that the correct use of disinfectant be made part of trainer and kennelhand training.

(iii) Tail Tip Dressing

- The recommendation to amend GBGB Rule 217 in respect of tail tip dressing as discussed at the last VSC meeting has been agreed by the GBGB and will now be presented to the RRC.

(iv) Treatment Book Stickers

- The treatment book sticker, developed by Simon Adams since the last meeting, was discussed and finalised and will now be progressed to production stage. The roll out of the sticker will be discussed with the Senior Stipendiary Steward in order that all Stipendiary Stewards be involved and informed of the process.

Veterinary Inspection Form

- A number of suggested amendments to the form were discussed in depth and a finalised version will be sent from the VSC to the WSC and then to the GRB for approval.

Veterinary Training

(i) Initiatives to encourage track vets

- Work is progressing towards the organisation of talks and presentations at Veterinary School clinical clubs.

(ii) Training days and seminars for newly licensed and experienced vets

- A training working group is to be formed, bringing together an SGV and an AGTV representative and using the advice and expertise of HRA and ARVS contacts involved with training. Simon Adams and Andrew Bartholomew will progress the organisation of a GBGB training day, forming an agenda with SGV and AGTV input.

Research

(i) Sudden Death Survey Update

- Richard Payne discussed the updated Sudden Death Survey paper, which has gone out to all track vets with a reporting form and memo. Risk factors for sudden death were discussed in detail and it is to be considered whether information regarding these should be recorded.

(ii) Current Student Vet Projects

- Ruth Dockerty, a PhD student from the University of Liverpool, described her research project looking into genetics and performance and breeding value using information collated from the website www.greyhounddata.com. Ruth will also be shadowing track vets, trainers, breeders, stipendiary stewards, and gaining experience in the GBGB offices.

Rule 112- Kennelling Times

- The sub-committee considered a paper written by Richard Payne describing the current rules and how they relate to EU and WATO regulations. The sub-committee concluded that changes to kennelling procedures (e.g. split kennelling) could necessitate extra staff and may create logistical difficulties for track vets and those trainers with large kennel strengths.

AOB

- Punctuality of track vets in attending race and trial meetings was discussed and it was recommended that any suspected breach of GBGB Rule 113 relating to pre and post race checks or any other GBGB rules should be reported to the Director of Regulation.

A Duplock, VSC Secretary

3rd May 2010