



**IRISH GREYHOUND BOARD**

# **BEST PRACTICE GUIDE**

**IN THE CARE & WELFARE OF THE GREYHOUND**

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*"The Greyhound, the great hound, the graceful of limb  
Long fellow, smooth fellow, rough fellow and slim.  
You can travel o'er the earth, can sail o'er the sea  
But you will not find one more ancient than he".*

*Author Unknown*



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# BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

## MAIN PRINCIPLES

- The registered owner and or keeper of the greyhound should take full responsibility for the physical and social well being of the greyhound and should do so with full regard to the dog's welfare
- All greyhounds are to be registered in the name of the official owner and all appropriate registration documentation is to be completed and forwarded to the Keeper of the Irish Stud Book
- All registered owners are responsible for the welfare, action and whereabouts of their greyhounds as long as the greyhound is registered in their name
- Registered owners should attempt to provide a suitable home for their retired greyhound
- Registered owners should not give away or gift their retired greyhounds to people who will not care for them or use them for illicit purposes
- Breeding of greyhounds should be based on the current needs of the breeder and the future needs of the industry
- Where euthanasia is inevitable, it should be carried out in a humane manner by a suitably qualified person (veterinary surgeon or Local Authority dog pound)
- All greyhounds should be part of a complete vaccination programme
- When transported all greyhounds should do so in safety and comfort
- A veterinary surgeon to be in attendance for races
- Tracks to provide a safe running surface for racing and trials
- Greyhounds to be provided veterinary attention if injured
- Prohibited substances which may affect the performance of a greyhound when racing or trialling should not be permitted
- The industry participants should ensure the continued funding of the Retired Greyhound Trust and work closely with other welfare bodies in sourcing good homes for ex-racing greyhounds



## INTRODUCTION

The “Best Practice Guide in the Care & Welfare of The Greyhound” has been produced by the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB), which is responsible for the development, regulation and promotion of the greyhound industry in Ireland.

The I.G.B. is cognisant of its responsibility to develop and promote strategies that are consistent with the highest standards of animal welfare. These practices will ensure that all greyhounds are cared for in a professional manner throughout all stages of their lifecycle. This guide is intended to provide detailed guidance and assistance to those who own, breed or train greyhounds.

The Irish greyhound is renowned for his unique qualities and is recognised worldwide for his breeding lines, which have impacted significantly throughout the racing world. These strong attributes did not materialise without the strong commitment, care and management of the industry by its overseers and the major role played by the dedicated stakeholders, who make up the greyhound industry in Ireland.

The guide details all elements of greyhound husbandry and should be used in conjunction with other greyhound specific publications and welfare charters. The guide also seeks to emphasis and promote the vital relationship that exists between the greyhound owner and the veterinarian and how a strong relationship between both parties will ensure the highest possible care be afforded to the greyhound.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GREYHOUND

The origin of the greyhound is deeply rooted in ancient history. In fact, murals and paintings of dogs strikingly similar to today’s greyhound existed more than 4,000 years ago. Their pictures were etched on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs and the pharaohs valued them highly both as pets and as hunters. Ancient Arabs so admired the physical attributes and speed of the greyhound that they allowed the dog to share their tents and sleep atop their camels, a privilege extended to no other breed. In early Arabian culture the birth of a greyhound rated second in importance only to the birth of a son.

By the 1800’s, greyhounds had become popular in America and early farmers took advantage of the natural speed and hunting instinct of greyhounds to control the jackrabbits that threatened vital crops. These farmers held informal races and these friendly events became the forerunners of the modern greyhound racing industry. The first traps and artificial lure were constructed in America and were an immediate success.

In 1926 a greyhound racing stadium was opened in Belle Vue, Manchester, England.

On 28th May 1927, Australia hosted its first official greyhound race meeting at Harold Park, Sydney. Subsequent meetings attracted attendances of 16,000 patrons and the industry continues to flourish today.

Following the successes of the U.S.A & the U.K., racing was introduced to Ireland on the 14th May 1927. On that great occasion over 8,000 spectators attended Shelbourne Park- now Ireland’s premier stadium.



## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE IRISH GREYHOUND BOARD

The Irish Government established Bord Na gCon (IGB) to oversee the running of the greyhound industry in Ireland. The IGB was officially convened in 1958 and charged with the responsibility of developing and regulating the industry. Its progress since that time has been significant and it now oversees an industry with seventeen greyhound stadia at strategic locations throughout the country. The IGB is a commercial semi-state body and the policy formulating function resides with the ministerial appointed Board members.

The operation of the industry has changed dramatically since 1958 and with change comes responsibilities. The industry has moved on and is now considered a major competitor in the leisure and sporting arena. The IGB has recognised at all times that while developing strategies for the industry at a commercial level, it is equally important to ensure that integrity and welfare initiatives are afforded the appropriate resources to ensure continued development in this critical area.

The IGB will continue to enhance all aspects of greyhound welfare and ensure that the highest standards of performance and consistency are delivered when formulating strategy and appropriate policies.

The IGB will continue to work with like-minded welfare agencies, both nationally and internationally.

## AIMS OF THE BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

*The mission statement of the guide is:*

**“To recognise that the welfare of the greyhound is paramount and by adopting the best identified practices to ensure that the highest welfare standards are achieved”.**

The guide is a clear set of practices to promote and maintain the highest standards of greyhound welfare in Ireland. It details a common-sense approach to greyhound husbandry and is both descriptive and prescriptive in format. Despite its aspirational nature, it is intended to compliment existing rules and regulations governing greyhound racing.

The guide is available to all stakeholders in the industry and is carried on [www.igb.ie](http://www.igb.ie). It will be the basis for current and future seminars and its core elements will be re-enforced at relevant venues.

It is a rolling document that will be amended as research and empirical evidence dictate. It has been developed by examining similar guides in other jurisdictions and reviewing a number of greyhound specific publications, which deal comprehensively with greyhound related issues.

It will also take account of the findings of the Working Group established by the Minister of the Environment to examine the management of Dog Breeding Establishments.



## 1. CARE OF THE STUD DOG:

- Normally when a dog is retired to stud he will have been in a racing kennel up until that time and the routine should not be altered to any great extent.
- The stud dog is normally maintained at 1-3 kg above racing weight.
- Vitamin supplementation is thought to be essential to maintain libido and fertility.
- Vitamin E is given for libido and both Vitamin A & E are essential for sperm development.
- The administration of ascorbic acid is also beneficial to a working stud.
- Regular daily supplementation of Dicalcium Phosphate in conjunction with Vitamin D in order to maintain musculoskeletal requirements is also recommended.
- A regular daily exercise regime is an important feature in stud care welfare and should be based on the needs of the dog.
- Free form exercise is a suitable element of his “fitness program” in association with a number of daily turnouts.
- Regular veterinary inspection to ensure peak condition is maintained.

**NOTE: PLEASE REFER TO SECTION 8- CARE OF THE RETIRED GREYHOUND.**

(This describes a number of geriatric conditions and may be applicable to stud dog welfare).





## 2. CARE OF THE BROOD BITCH

### 2.1 PRE-BREEDING CARE

- Before embarking on a breeding campaign it is necessary to ensure the health of the bitch prior to mating.
- **VAGINAL SWABBING**- The collection of a sample of mucus from the walls of the vagina and cervix of the bitch, using a long handled sterile, cotton swab. The testing of the sample prior to mating ensures the bitch is clear of infection. The same procedure can be repeated 3 weeks after mating to ensure no infection is present, which may compromise the welfare of the expectant mother. The procedure will not affect the fertilisation process. It will identify any infection present and signal the requirement for antibiotic intervention.
- **PREGNANCY**- Can be divided into “Trimesters”.
  - (a) 1st from mating to 21 days.
  - (b) 2nd from 21 days to 42 days.
  - (c) 3rd from 42 days to term.

Gestation normally lasts 63 days (range 60 – 67 days).

### 2.2 OBSERVATIONS- FIRST TRIMESTER

- Bitch may show mood changes and variable appetite (maybe picky with her food). There is no real change in the bitches’ body shape during this period despite the fact that all the body organs systems of the puppies are being formed.

#### - SECOND TRIMESTER

- Foetal puppies may be felt for the first time using gentle palpation on the lower abdomen. Toward the latter half of the second trimester the abdominal walls begin to sag and enlarge and the mammary glands begin to develop.

#### - THIRD TRIMESTER

- This is the period of maximum growth of the puppies and places the greatest demands on the bitch. The abdomen enlarges to its maximum size to encompass the developing womb. Mammary glands enlarge and fill with milk and may begin to excrete milk.

**NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT TO OBSERVE EACH PHASE OF THE PREGNANCY AND IDENTIFY ANY ABNORMALITIES WHICH MAY BE OF CONCERN TO THE WELFARE OF THE MOTHER AND MAY REQUIRE VETERINARY ATTENTION.**

### 2.3 FALSE PREGNANCY

- This is a hormonal condition and a psychological state in a bitch that has either been mated and has not conceived or has never been exposed to a male.
- All signs of pregnancy occur, but no pups are born.
- Various hormonal therapies exist to deal with this condition and once radiology confirms the absence of any pups, advice and treatment can be administered by your vet.



## **2.4 NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Bitches tend to put on weight during pregnancy more readily than when not pregnant due to hormonal changes and reduced physical activity.
- 1st Trimester: No added food intake is necessary and the bitch should be fed a balanced diet with no additives or medicines (some medicines can interfere with the development of various organ systems in the foetal pup. Consult your vet before using any medicine).
- 2nd & Final Trimester: The growth of pups is most rapid in the last trimester. At this stage more food should be provided (she should be eating about one and one-half times her normal intake).
- Due to her reduced capacity for the intake of large amounts of food (abdomen full of pups), she must be given a number of small meals during the day.
- During the 2nd trimester there must be an increase in calcium intake to attain normal bone development in the puppies and to maintain normal blood calcium levels in the bitch (large amounts of calcium are utilised in uterine contraction and in milk production)
- A balanced diet is important and the provision of Dicalcium Phosphate and Vitamin D to ensure the health of the bitch is maintained are necessary.

## **2.5 PARASITE CONTROL AND VACCINATIONS**

- The bitch should be de-wormed during the 2nd trimester to reduce environmental contamination.
- During the 2nd trimester the bitch should receive a booster vaccination to ensure that an adequate immunity is developed and concentrated in the colostrum to be passed onto the pups for protection during the first few months of their lives.
- Veterinary advice and expertise should be taken on the type of vaccination to be administered- Active or Inactive.

## **2.6 FINAL PREPARATION FOR WHELPING**

- During the final week of pregnancy the bitch should be placed in her whelping box or area where she will whelp (within 24 hrs of whelping, nesting behaviour may be exhibited).
- This will acclimatise her to her new environment.
- The area should be clean, quiet, have good lighting, ventilation and provision for heating.
- The material used as bedding for the bitch should be easily changed, as it may be soiled during the birth process.
- A veterinarian visit with approximately 7 days remaining of the pregnancy would be beneficial for the bitch and to make your vet aware of the imminent whelp.
- Some bitches may become very large close to the end of term and may develop a doughy filling (edema) in the back legs as a result of reduced drainage from the legs (not a cause for concern).
- The vulva becomes enlarged, the ligaments around the tail base slacken and a clear to straw coloured mucus discharge may be seen from the vulva.



## 3. CARE DURING WHELPING

### 3.1 STAGE OF EXCITATION - BEFORE PUPS ARRIVE

- Nearing giving birth, the bitch becomes restless, pants, tears up bedding, and carries out a nest-making behaviour (usually seen 6-24 hours before the birth of the first pup).

### 3.2 ABDOMINAL CONTRACTIONS

- Following this phase, abdominal contractions commence, usually 6 to 8 at a time, followed by a period of rest.
- A grey-green, fluid filled bag appears from the vulva and further contractions will cause the pup to be expelled from the birth canal.
- This fluid then lubricates the birth canal for the delivery of the pups.
- The head or the tail may appear first, both presentations are normal in greyhounds.
- Maiden bitches may become distressed with the onset of labour since it is a new experience.

### 3.3 THE BIRTH PROCESS

- If the bitch appears to be unaware of what to do, or if at the end of whelping the bitch is tired and unable to clean the pup, assistance should be provided as follows:

**(a)** Break the bag open and clear the pup's mouth of fluid.

**(b)** Rub the pup vigorously with a towel or a piece of sheet and make the bitch aware that there is a pup there for her to tend by placing the pup near her face.

**(c)** Do not clean pups too well as the sense of smell is important for recognition of the pups by the bitch.

**(d)** Tear away the umbilical cord (using both hands on the cord to where it leaves the placenta and pulling in opposite directions) leaving approximately 4 to 6 inches of cord attached to the pup.

**(e)** Do not use sharp implements as this will cause the blood vessels to bleed freely (the pup will lose vital blood volume).

**(f)** The afterbirth is usually expelled by further contractions shortly afterwards, or by the bitch as she swallows the placenta, pulling it free as she does. The placenta is a good source of iron.

**(g)** Pups may be born singly or in pairs (one quickly after another), one from each horn of the uterus.

### 3.4 INDICATION FOR A CAESARIAN SECTION

- There are non-productive labour contractions.
- A pup or portion thereof (tail, foot, nose) can be seen at the vulva, but there is no progression of the birth process.
- Uterine inertia is suspected i.e. one or two pups born and the abdomen is still enlarged, but all contractions have stopped.
- Known pelvic defect.



### 3.5 DISCHARGES FROM BIRTH PROCESS

- The normal discharge accompanying the birth is a dark green-black colour.
- This colour signifies the separation of the placenta, which is the separation of the pups blood supply from the wall of the uterus and hence the mothers blood supply.
- A bloody discharge may continue after the whelp for 10 to 21 days.

### 3.6 WHEN ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED

- Bitch should always have someone supervising her during the whelp.
- If unsure, or uncertain, contact your veterinarian and the correct course of action can be advised / undertaken.
- Care must be exercised to avoid infection of the vagina, udders, and pups during any midwifery assistance, equal care must be exercised in the choice of disinfectants used. (These must be active in the presence of blood and mucus, be of minimal odour and devoid of bitter lingering taste).

### 3.7 POST CARE OF WHELPING BITCH

- Observe the vaginal discharge which follows whelping. It may start fairly profuse but should rapidly start to reduce over the first few days. The colour may start very dark but then turn bloody.
- Always be aware of the possibility of post-whelping infection. The vaginal discharge will be much more profuse and may be sweet smelling. The bitch is also likely to be ill herself and puppies may be making a lot of noise because the bitch's milk supply will be reduced. Veterinary treatment is urgently required.
- Untreated infections may progress to full metritis (infection of the uterus), which will generally lead to a very profuse pus discharge. The bitch is likely to be very poorly, running a temperature, off her food completely and probably drinking excessively. Urgent veterinary treatment is required and may include intravenous fluids via a drip, hospitalisation and possibly surgery to remove the infected uterus.
- She is very unlikely to be producing much milk and so hand feeding of the puppies is essential if they are to survive. Special milk replacements are made for puppies as bitch milk is quite different to cows' milk.
- Trim the nails of puppies to reduce trauma to the bitch due to scratching during nursing.
- Observe for any vaginal discharge, which may indicate the need for specific diagnosis and therapy by a veterinarian.
- **PYOMETRA**- is a condition which occurs in bitches in the first ten weeks after a season. It is unusual in bitches less than 5 years old, or 5 years since the last litter. It is a potentially fatal condition which requires urgent veterinary treatment as, in some cases it can be fatal in as little as 2 days.
- Symptoms include general malaise, excessive thirst, vomiting, lack of appetite, fever, abdominal distension and dehydration. There will be a vaginal discharge if the cervix is open. The onset of symptoms may be very sudden or slowly over a few days.
- Urgent veterinary treatment is required and this is likely to include intravenous fluids via a drip, antibiotics and in most cases, removal of the infected uterus.



## 4. RESPONSIBLE BREEDING

- A breeder should consider the welfare of the brood bitch before a decision is reached to mate.
- Each bitch should be screened for breeding purposes, with particular emphasis on current health status.
- Breeders should conduct an audit of their current and future requirements, to ensure that the needs of the breeder and the marketplace are not over supplied.
- Breeding should be embarked upon, following a deliberate decision process.





## 5. CARE OF PUP AT EACH STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT



**The following are the various stages of a puppy's life cycle:**

- BIRTH
- NEONATE – 1 to 10 DAYS
- TRANSITIONAL – 10 to 21 DAYS.
- SOCIALISATION – 3 to 10 WEEKS.
- JUVENILE – 10 WEEKS to 6 MONTHS (PUBERTY).
- ADOLESCENCE – 6 to 12 MONTHS.



## 5.1 CARE & FACTS OF PUP AT BIRTH STAGE

- Pups are born blind and deaf (they possess only 20% of their full hearing).
- Licking by the bitch establishes a family contact relationship, which has important psychological implications for the pup and the mother.
- Sucking is a reflex activity, it only ceases with sleep, fatigue or a full stomach.
- Sucking ensures adequate nutrition to sustain life and activity and it ensures the supply of protective antibodies from the colostrum i.e. passive immunity to bacterial and viral diseases to which the mother is immune.
- **COLOSTRUM**- Is a thick yellow rich milk produced by bitches during the first 3 days after whelping. It contains a concentration of all the antibodies from the bitches bloodstream (pups deprived of colostrum are prone to infection, sickness, and death).
- Pups intestines are so designed that they are able to absorb antibodies from the colostrum only during the **FIRST 72 HOURS FROM THE TIME OF BIRTH.**

## 5.2 NEONATAL STAGE

- At 2/3 days of age, the umbilical cord dries and drops off. The brain is making rapid progress in its development. All critical brain components are present, but they are actively maturing by developing the normal myelin coating on the nervous tissues which is essential for smooth movements and proper functioning.
- The pup has three basic conscious movements:
  - (a) Ability to right itself if rolled over on its side or back.
  - (b) Ability to curl up (flexion of legs & body).
  - (c) Ability to crawl slowly.
- Life preserving activities are all reflexes at this stage e.g. breathing & sucking.
- Bowel elimination is not under the puppy's own control and, like the nervous activities, is a reflex action in response to licking by the mother.
- Neonate pups only require two things for life and happiness - **MILK & WARMTH.**
- Distress cries from a pup indicate either hunger, the pup is cold, in pain, or has lost contact with the mother.
- Loss of contact with the mother is a physical & psychological distress to the pup.
- A normal healthy pup will sleep 90% of the time. It will suck for an average of 20 minutes.
- If you lift a pup during the first 3 days, it should curl up and flex its body and legs. This is flexor dominance of all the muscle groups.

**NOTE: ORPHANED PUPS SHOULD HAVE THE ANAL AREA AND BLADDER EMPTYING**

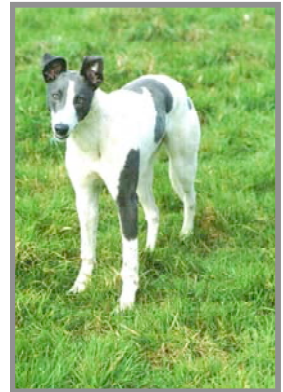


### 5.3 TRANSITION STAGE

- Hearing develops rapidly from 14 to 17 days of age and matures from there. Tics and twitches may be seen when the pup appears to be sleeping.
- Brain development has progressed to the point where the puppy can reasonably control limb movement.
- Most pups at this stage have a rolling, stumbling walk.
- Overweight pups lie on their midline and move like seals with a swimming action. This results in a deformity of the chest (flattens from top to bottom) and the limbs.
- It is controlled by regulating food intake and applying bandages to the front and back limbs to prevent squatting on the midline and spreading of the limbs.
- At the end of this phase the pup will be able to defecate without maternal assistance.
- It takes another week or so for the bladder to function without maternal assistance.
- At this stage the first teeth begin to appear.
- As the teeth begin to erupt, the bitch begins to resent sucking, due to the puppy bites around the nipples.
- Toe nails may have grown to a length that may cause skin damage to the udder and cause discomfort to the bitch. Careful trimming will improve mother tolerance.
- Pups should double their birth weight at 8 to 10 days.

### 5.4 SOCIALISATION STAGE

- Pups now react to sight and sounds.
- It can recognise that objects are outside its immediate area of activity.
- It can follow moving objects with coordinated head and eye control.
- Odour responses are more definite.
- At end of 4th week, muscle control is quite good and the pup can stand and progress without tremor.
- The brain centres are ready for knowledge. Real play now begins.
- The pup now socialises and learns to mix with the objects and creatures of this world without fear or aggression.
- The future pattern of social behaviour of all dogs is determined at this stage of life and the ability to make rapid adjustments to that pattern is lost at weaning.
- **PUPPIES NOT HANDLED AND EXPOSED TO THE WORLD AND PEOPLE AT THIS STAGE WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING LATER IN LIFE.**



**NOTE: THERE IS A MASS OF EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT PUPPIES NOT HANDLED OR EXPOSED TO THE WORLD BY THE 13TH WEEK OF AGE ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO TRAIN, AND THIS WILL INFLUENCE THE WHOLE OF THEIR RACING CAREER.**



## 5.5 JUVENILE STAGE



- Pups are quite independent by 6 months of age. Sexual development is almost completed by puberty and mounting will be observed in males.
- **COPROPHACY**- Eating of droppings /manure may be observed at this stage.
  - COMMON CAUSE:
    - Dietary excess of fat or carbohydrate, which comes through manure only partly digested.
    - A lack of bulk in the diet- no feeling of fullness or satiety after eating.
    - An intestinal irritation from worms or indigestible foreign bodies.
    - Deficiencies of calcium, phosphorous or iron in the diet.
    - Boredom from lack of challenge or interest in the area of confinement.

**NOTE: When pup is fully weaned, food intake is controlled by stomach capacity or distension. This is why puppies will eat until they are ready to burst.**

### DEVELOPMENT OF MALE AND FEMALE

- **FEMALE:** The earliest onset of oestrus is 5 months, although most cycles occur in the 9 – 15 months age group.
  - Silent oestrus is not unusual in the young bitch wherein the ovary goes through its normal oestrus activity and produces eggs but there is no external evidence of the cycle.
- **MALE:** In the male fertility is seldom achieved prior to 6 months of age.
  - Fertile capability is usually reached at 10 to 12 months of age.
  - It is important not to confuse sexual maturity in the male or female with the activities of mounting, clasp and pelvic thrusting seen in the 6 to 7 month old pups.



## 5.6 PUPPY FACTS

- The hearing of a dog is much keener than a human.
- Both dogs and humans can detect sound waves over 250 cycles per second.
- Greyhounds can hear in the range 250-250,000 cycles per second.
- This is the basis for the 'silent whistle' used to call dogs, which is inaudible to humans.
- It also explains why dogs bark at night when disturbed by sound completely inaudible to people.
- People and dogs are equal in their recognition of light intensity i.e. brightness or dullness of any given light source.
- Greyhounds have limited colour recognition.
- Form and pattern recognition by a greyhound is quite poor in comparison with human ability. This is why you have to speak to your dog when it barks at you in dim light.
- It recognises your voice or odour before it assesses your form or figure.
- Greyhounds are sight hounds and as such have better vision than a number of other breeds of dogs.
- The respiration rate of a puppy is 15 to 40 breaths per minute.
- At birth the rate is 200 beats per minute and this reduces to 60 beats at 6 months of age.
- Pups cannot shiver to warm up until after the sixth day after birth. At this stage they are dependent on external sources of warmth for the maintenance of body temperature.

## 5.7 INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF PUPPIES

The following are a list of certain puppy conditions which breeders should be aware of. This reinforces the need to liaise with your veterinarian to prevent, monitor and treat such puppy associated diseases.

- (a) "FADING PUPPY SYNDROME" (FPS).
- (b) "FADING PUPPY" SYNDROME OF VIRAL ORIGIN.
- (c) "FADING PUPPY" SYNDROME OF BACTERIAL ORIGIN.
- (d) "FADING PUPPY" SYNDROME OF BACTERIAL TOXEMIA.
- (e) PYODERMA – PUPPY DERMATITIS.
- (f) PARVOVIRUS INFECTION.

## 5.8 NON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF PUPPIES

- **ANOXIA**- Defined as a lack of oxygen in the body. It is caused when the separation of the placenta from the uterus (womb) is followed by a prolonged delivery.
- **NUTRITIONAL ANAEMIA**- Is related to poor nutrition of pregnant bitch. It is important to rule out parasitic causes of anaemia, such as fleas, ticks, or internal parasites, especially hook-worm.
- **NEONATAL ISOERYTHROLYSIS (ERYTHROBLASTOSIS FETALIS)**  
This condition is also called infantile jaundice and haemolytic disease.
  - It occurs when puppies with "A" positive blood group are born to bitches of "A" negative blood



group but whose colostrum contains “A” positive antibodies, due to blood transfusion of “A” positive blood at some earlier time in her life).

- The “A” antibodies in the colostrum react with the “A” type red blood cells of the puppy causing them to fragment.
- This releases the red pigment haemoglobin, which is broken chemically in the body to a yellow colour, thus causing what is called generalised jaundice.

## 6. INOCULATIONS/VACCINATION PROGRAMMES

Vaccination is the process of stimulating a high level of immunity in a greyhound by introducing either killed bacteria or virus particles, or biologically modified (non-disease producing) live organisms. The basis of vaccination programmes is to develop “memory cells” against the most common and dangerous bacteria and viruses.

- The immune system is the body’s defence mechanism against infectious agents and foreign materials, without an immune system, even minor infections would be rapidly fatal.
- The foundations for the immune system are the white blood cells, especially the lymphocytes.
- Lymphocytes can be broadly separated into B and T cells. The B cells make antibodies against foreign substances and are the major defence against bacteria.
- Both cell groups have specific lymphocytes that are called “memory cells”.
- They do not kill invading agents, but carry a memory for the antigen of the invader.
- When a bacterium re-enters the body for a second time, these “memory cells” respond more quickly and with greater immune response.

### HOW THE VACCINES WORK:

- The “B” and “T” lymphocytes respond to the injected vaccine by increasing in number, by programming “memory cells” and by increasing the amount of antibody that can be found circulating in the blood.
- A vaccination study conducted by the Department of Tropical Science, James Cook University, North Queensland concluded that the duration of maternal antibody in the pups correlated to the response to vaccination.
- Puppies at birth derive a temporary and variable immune protection from the colostrum of their dam.
- Within 6/8 weeks their own immune systems are active enough to respond to a vaccination programme, to ward off diseases, especially those caused by contagious bacteria and viruses in their environment.
- Residual levels of maternal antibodies may interfere with the vaccination process.
- The study identified a “window of susceptibility” between the time the maternal antibodies no longer protect the pups and the time the vaccinated pups are protected by their own immune response to the vaccination.



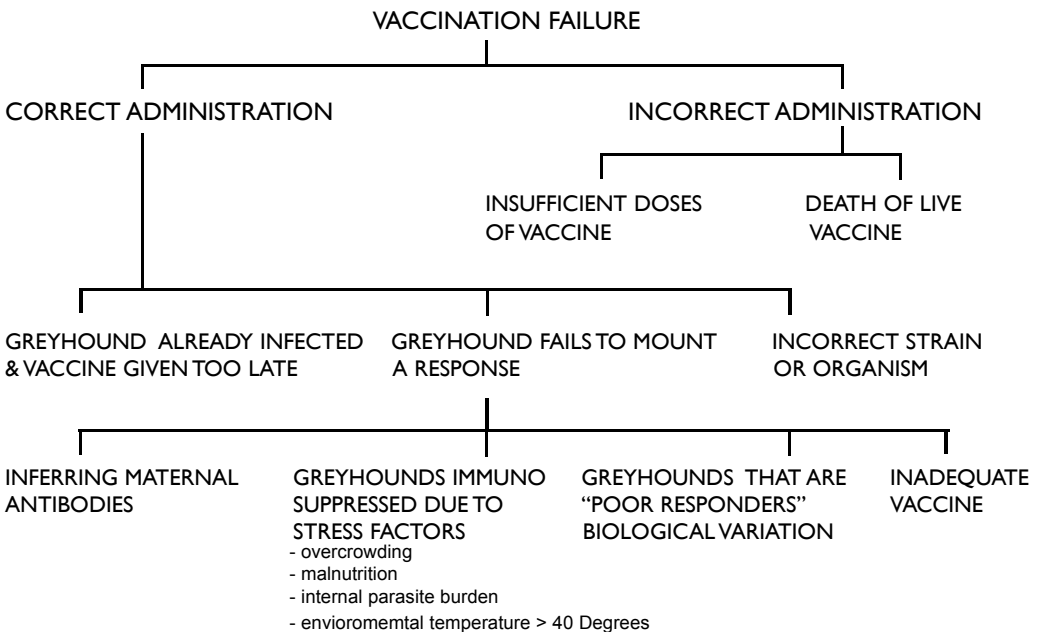
## 6.2 INNOCULATION/VACCINATION PROGRAMMES CONTINUED

- To optimise the chances of avoiding infection in this period, reduction of exposure to infectious agents by isolation, low environmental stress and good parasite control and nutrition is important.
- Boosters of vaccines should be given on a yearly basis or more often in areas of high disease occurrence.
- Vaccination breakdown or failure is most common in wormy, sick or infected patients or where there is overcrowding or inadequate nutrition.
- Vaccines must be handled properly. Heating or freezing can inactivate part or all of the vaccine components.
- Vaccines that come separated into liquid and dry portion must be used promptly after mixing (discard if not used within 40-60 minutes of mixing).

**NOTE: DIRECTION OF A VETERINARIAN WHO IS EXPERIENCED WITH GREYHOUNDS IS INVALUABLE IN SETTING UP A VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR A BREEDER. KEEPING GOOD RECORDS AS TO DATE OF VACCINATIONS AND DEWORMING WILL ASSIST GREATLY IN ENSURING OPTIMUM PROTECTION FOR EACH GREYHOUND IN THE KENNEL.**

- SCHEMATIC ILLUSTRATION OF REASONS WHY VACCINATION FAILURE OCCUR

### REASONS FOR VACCINATION FAILURE:



\*Modified from information obtained from Ettinger, 1989



## 7. CARE OF GREYHOUND DURING "SCHOOLING" OR "BREAKING IN"



- This stage normally commences between 11 and 15 months of age.
- This stage can be analysed under two headings:

- (1) PHYSICAL HEALTH PROGRAMME
- (2) PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

### 7.1 PHYSICAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

• The greyhound will have completed his rearing and is now ready to be prepared for the next stage of his development. The following checks and procedures will span the initial first two weeks of being moved to a new training/kennel facility.

#### • **BATHING:**

- Use a shampoo rather than soap, since soaps can produce dermatitis in some greyhounds if applied too vigorously.
- Use warm water, even in summer months
- Lather well all over the body & rinse well with fresh water to remove all shampoo.
- Dry well with towels or hair dryer and a rug if required.

#### • **PARASITE REMOVAL:** Fleas and ticks are the most common external parasites.

- Fleas can cause a number of problems including FLEA BITE DERMATITIS (inflammation of the skin) or itching that causes the greyhound to scratch and further damage the skin.
- Fleas are the intermediary host for the DIPYLIDIUM species of tapeworm which infest dogs.
- Greyhounds bite and swallow the flea and consequently become infested with tapeworm carried within the flea.
- Both fleas and ticks feed on blood taken from the greyhound. Heavy infestations result in anaemia. Ticks can also transmit diseases.
- For optimal physical condition, keeping your greyhounds free of these parasites needs to be a constant consideration.



- Control programs will vary with a number of factors, including the temperature ranges of the region, type of housing and proximity to grassy areas.

**NOTE: YOUR LOCAL VET WILL BE AWARE OF THE BEST TYPE OF CONTROL PROGRAMME IN YOUR AREA.**

*TREATMENT:*

- **FLEA/TICK POWDER:** If used, dust onto coat and rub against the lie of the hair.
- Ensure you cover all areas, including the ears, front of the neck and chest, ribs and base of the tail. These parasites also concentrate between the thighs and around the scrotum of males.
- **COMMERCIAL RINSES:** All are deadly to parasites and poisonous to greyhounds if not properly used. Must dilute to manufacturer's specification.
- Wet the greyhound all over the body including the base of the tail and ears, chest, throat, ribs, abdomen, scrotum and between the thighs.
- Allow the greyhound to shake off the excess rinse and then hand dry with towels.
- Frequency of application will depend on the severity of parasitic infestation and the type of rinse used.

**INTERNAL PARASITES**

- Pups should receive their first worming medication at 2 to 3 weeks of age.
- Then every two weeks until 12 weeks of age.
- Deworm monthly from 3 to 6 months of age.
- Deworm every 8 weeks during racing.

**NOTE: THERE ARE MANY DEWORMERS ON THE MARKET, BUT IT IS ADVISABLE TO ALTERNATE DEWORMERS TO AVOID BUILD-UP OF A RESISTANT POPULATION OF PARASITES. ALWAYS SEEK VETERINARY ADVICE OR THE EXPERIENCE OF SUCCESSFUL BREEDERS WHEN SELECTING WORMERS FOR PUPPIES UNDER 12 WEEKS.**

**HAEMANTICS:** Blood building tonics. They can be given orally or by injection.

- If your greyhound is anaemic, he will have a decreased number and quality of the red blood cells that carry the oxygen from the lungs to the body tissues.
- Improving blood levels increases stamina, strength and endurance as well as resistance to infections.
- Injectable haemantics- Doses will vary with the size of the greyhound or degree and cause of anaemia. Doses will include iron, Vitamin B12, Vitamin B complex and folic acid.
- ORAL HAEMANTICS – Is safer and a little slower to effect (by about 7 to 10 days) but may be more comfortable to the greyhound. Various forms of iron and B12 are used.



**NOTE: IN ALL CASES, FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF YOUR VETERINARIAN AND THE DIRECTIONS OF THE MANUFACTURER.**

**SUPPLEMENTS:**

- **MINERAL:** Bone growth of the greyhound approaching breaking-in is either still progressing, or just on completion.
- To ensure minimal bone and joint damage during breaking-in and racing, mineral supplementation is certainly desirable, if not essential.
- All bones require **CALCIUM, PHOSPHOROUS AND VITAMIN D** for development.
- The feeding of meat can dilute the calcium content uptake by a greyhound.
- If feeding commercial dog food (which are supplemented with appropriate amounts of calcium and phosphorous at the correct ratios) and a percentage of meat, it is advisable to supplement the meal with calcium.

• **SOURCES OF CALCIUM:**

- Bones- can only be given in moderation as they can cause digestive problems.
- Calcium supplements:     Calcium Carbonate – This is ordinary chalk (impalatable).  
  Calcium Gluconate – 90% calcium- very palatable.  
  Dicalcium Phosphate (DCP) – This is the closest compound to bone.
- There are proprietary mineral supplements that contain Calcium, Phosphorous, & Vitamins A and D.

**7.2 VITAMINS**

Vitamins are a group of chemically unrelated organic nutrient that are essential, in very small amounts, for healthy growth, development and maintenance of normal body function in animals. The word Vitamin is derived from the word “Vita”-meaning life, and, amine – a name incorrectly assigned to all vitamins.

- According to the “Essential Guide to Vitamins & Minerals” (Elizabeth Somer 1992) – thirteen recognised vitamins cannot be made by the body in sufficient amounts to maintain life, so they must be obtained from the diet.
- Any animal under stress or involved in strenuous exercise, has increased requirements for certain vitamins.
- A good general vitamin supplement supplying fat soluble vitamins A, D, E, & K and the water soluble vitamins of the B group & vitamin C should be regarded as part of the routine feeding schedule.
- Vitamin A & C are important in the formation of strong connective tissue (tendons, ligaments, muscle sheaths etc.).
- It is very important to supplement with these during the stress of the breaking-in process.
- Vitamin D is needed in trace amounts to assist with the proper absorption of calcium from the gastrointestinal system.
- Vitamin E is essential for the development and maintenance of the nervous system.



- Vitamin E & C are major anti-oxidants (free radical scavengers), which protect nerve and muscle cells especially during intense exercise programmes.
- Commercial supplements can be obtained from your vet or greyhound supplies outlet.
- It is always preferable to use vitamin supplements that are greyhound specific.

### 7.3 ELECTROLYTES.

- These are mineral salts distributed throughout the body fluids.
- They assist in holding fluid within the blood vessels and tissue.
- Deficiency of electrolytes results in a loss of body fluid and the onset of dehydration.
- Major electrolyte requirements for greyhounds are – Potassium, Sodium, Chloride, Magnesium, Copper, Calcium, Zinc and Magnesium.
- Most electrolyte supplements are given in the morning meal or drink.
- Potassium is often given separately with solid food in the main or evening meal as some potassium supplements can be an irritant to the stomach.

### 7.4 TOUGHENING DRESSINGS.

- The commencement of a breaking-in programme will increase the work-load on the wrists, hocks, metacarpal bones, the metatarsal bones and the fibula bones.
- It is therefore important to strengthen these areas.
- The application of stimulating liniments will assist in improving the blood supply to these zones, thereby toughening and strengthening the bones, tendons, ligaments and joints.
- The liniment can be applied and left to dry or it can be massaged to the relevant areas.

### 7.5 VETERINARY EXAMINATION

Each owner/trainer/breeder should have his or her own vet, in whose ability he/she has confidence. The vet should have a genuine interest in the welfare and performance of the greyhound as well as experience in working with this specialised breed.

- A young greyhound prior to breaking-in should have the following:
  - **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** Of the mouth, throat, eyes, and ears, lymph nodes and general body areas for infections, hernias, and deformities.
  - **STETHOSCOPE EXAMINATION:** Of heart and lungs for defects, deformities and infections.
  - **SOUNDNESS EXAMINATION:** Of muscles, tendons and joints for any injuries or abnormalities requiring therapy as well as general confirmation evaluation for potential areas of concern.
- If there are any indications of clinical problems at the time of the examination or if the greyhound does not respond to the initial treatment, then the following tests should be considered:



- **BLOOD TESTS:** To check for anaemia, to detect infection, to examine for blood parasites, and to get an index on the overall health of the greyhound by measuring the blood factors e.g. enzymes, related to the various organ systems.
- **MANURE TEST:** To verify that the deworming programme carried out before was effective and to identify any other resistant parasitic infestations or other medical abnormalities such as blood in the faeces or digestive enzyme disorders.
- **URINE TEST:** To check for kidney abnormalities, infections, bile or other liver disturbances.
- **ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY:** The provision of a broad spectrum antibiotic prior to schooling will eliminate any minor grade infections that may not have any clinical signs.
  - A combination of two selected antibiotics may have a broader spectrum effect.
  - Your vet is the best guide as to which antibiotics to use, the dose, and the time of administration.
- **SURGICAL CORRECTION:** If during the veterinary examination, any defects are found that require surgical correction, these should be given attention prior to subjecting the greyhound to a regular training programme.

## 7.6 PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGRAMME

- Schooling or breaking-in is a period of mental adjustment to new and strange surroundings, sights and sounds.
- Greyhound must adapt to a new kennelling regime.
- Greyhound must adjust his toilet patterns based on the regime of the kennel.
- Greyhound must adapt to walking on a lead.





## 7.7 CARE DURING BREAKING-IN (SCHOOLING)

To ensure the welfare of your greyhound during this phase of development, the following will assist in ensuring the transition to a whole new set of exercise and training procedures is compatible with maintaining the welfare of the dog.

- Trainers/owners should have the greyhound examined thoroughly prior to schooling.
- Keep the greyhound on a good supplement of Calcium, Phosphorus, Vitamins A, D & E throughout its early life and into racing life.
- Toughen up areas by applying counterirritants approximately 2 months before the training programme begins. Apply on alternative days of the week to metacarpals, accessory carpal, metatarsals and hocks.
- Space circle runs at 10 to 12 day intervals where possible to allow the young greyhound to adapt to the new stresses and aid the process of bone remodelling.
- Seek the services of a veterinarian who is experienced and knowledgeable about racing greyhounds.
- Develop routine of examining the greyhound after each run and have problem areas examined and corrected before proceeding with the training program.
- A thorough examination of the muscles, tendons, joints, urine, blood as well as a general physical examination at the end of the breaking-in period will enhance the welfare of the greyhound.





## 8. RETIREMENT

Having completed a career in competition racing most greyhounds will retire at an average age of four years. It is important to recognise that apart from his breeding potential, the naturally pleasant and friendly disposition of the greyhound lends the breed readily to a life in a domestic environment.

### *Weight*

- The body weight of a retired greyhound should be about 2-4 kg above its race weight.
- Any weight increase above this figure will cause obesity which is an aggravating factor in the major degeneration diseases e.g. circulatory failure and arthritis.

### *Exercise*

- Even in retirement, the greyhound requires a regular exercise programme.

### *Nutrition*

- Diet will not vary much from that of a normal domestic pet with one main meal daily. Raw meat usually stops being a main component of the diet.

### *Deworming*

- Deworming may now be required only two to three times a year depending upon local environmental conditions and exposure to other dogs.

### *Grooming*

- Grooming should be undertaken on a weekly basis. Use soft bristle brushes or nylon combs.
- Bathing with standard shampoo should not exceed monthly in winter or fortnightly in summer.
- Excessive washing of the greyhound's skin with detergent leads to excessive drying (dandruff).

It is important to be aware of the following geriatric conditions and seek veterinary care when appropriate.



## **8.1 TEETH**

Tartar, which is the mineralised form of plaque, is a gummy substance formed around teeth by food residue and bacteria, can cause a number of conditions:

- Gingivitis – secondary inflammation of the gums.
- Pyorrhoea – inflammation of the tissues holding the teeth in place with a discharge of pus.
- In the event of these conditions prevailing, the tartar will require physical removal, under sedation in many cases.
- Pyorrhoea may lead to the necessity for some removal of teeth, coupled with a course of antibiotics to control tooth and gum infections.
- Your vet will carry out both these procedures.

## **PREVENTION**

- Weekly inspection of teeth will enable detection of tartar build-up.
- Greyhound should be provided with adequate chewing material – rawhide, chewable bones, brisket bones or beef bones.

## **8.2 EYES**

- In ageing greyhounds particular attention should be given to the pupil and the lens of the eye.
- With age and reduced circulation, a condition of nuclear sclerosis develops in the lens and is observed as a grey murky colour change of the black pupil.
- Cataracts are a progressive deterioration of the lens of the eye which is naturally associated with progressive loss of sight.
- They can be surgically removed by veterinarians and sight can be restored.

## **8.3 EARS**

- Regular inspection of the ears is desirable in the greyhound.
- Cleaning with a cotton bud either dry or damp with olive oil will aid removal of any wax accumulation.

## **CONDITIONS TO BE AWARE OF:**

- Otitis Externa (Canker): Moist wax builds up in the ear canal, together with an unpleasant odour and discomfort on handling.

## **YOUR VET WILL DIAGNOSE AS TO THE CAUSATIVE AGENT AND SPECIFIC MEDICATION.**

- Haematoma of the Ear: Occasionally due to trauma to the ear flap, there will be rupture of the thin veins lying in between the cartilage and the skin of the ear.
- The blood accumulates between the skin and cartilage causing gross swelling and distortion of the ear flap.
- Fly Worry in summer, which presents itself as broken, bleeding margins on the tips and edges of the ear flaps. It is caused by biting flies and sucking insects.



## **8.4 NAILS**

Nails should be inspected monthly and excess length removed by filing or clipping to an appropriate length.

## **8.5 ANAL GLANDS**

- There are scent glands located under the tail on each side of the opening.
- Their purpose is to exude a characteristic scent to the stool when it is passed.
- If the domestic diet of the dog becomes soft, then the stool may lack bulk or firmness. This causes the gland not to empty.
- The accumulated material in the glands may become infected and lead to a painful swollen anal abscess on one or both sides.
- If left unattended, they will break out through the skin and present as a foul discharging sinus.

## **TREATMENT**

- (1) Removal of glands by your vet
- (2) Manual expressing of the glands on a 6 to 8 week basis.

## **8.6 BALANTIS – SHEATH DISCHARGE**

- It is a thick yellow to green coloured discharge at the opening of the sheath which encloses the penis of the greyhound.
- If the condition has been present for some time, the patient will have a brown lick stain around the mouth and upper lips.
- Males can also suffer from tonsillitis due to transfer of infected material from the sheath to the mouth.
- In other cases the infection may spread up the urethra (penis opening) into the bladder causing cystitis (inflammation of the bladder) or even to the kidneys causing nephritis.

## **TREATMENT**

- Sheath should be flushed out with disinfectants and care should be taken not to exceed the recommended dilutions.
- Delete Vitamin E or wheat germ from the diet in these patients for 6 to 8 weeks, then regulate the dose to 50 IU daily.

## **8.7 VAGINAL URINE SCALD AND INFECTION**

- With age, the skin of the vulva region may lose its tone and form a flaccid fold over the vaginal opening.
- Routine weekly inspection of the vaginal area will detect early stages.

## **TREATMENT**

In mild cases, the application of a protective barrier cream or healing antibiotic ointment will control the condition. Advance cases may require surgical removal of the skin fold by your vet.



## **8.8 HEART FAILURE**

**LEFT-SIDE HEART FAILURE** – Slowing of the passage of blood through the lung. This causes pulmonary congestion with the accumulation of mucus in the bronchioles and other airway passages.

- Clinical signs include coughing on exertion or activity after rest
- Following coughing spasm, the greyhound often loses a small quantity of clear fluid, permeated by tiny bubbles from the mouth (looks like a mixture of saliva and soap suds).

### **TREATMENT**

Greyhound will require veterinary diagnosis and treatment with cardiac therapeutic agents as used in humans.

- Expectorants to liquefy the mucus for easier removal and possibly bronchodilators to improve airflow in obstructed air passages are also often prescribed.

**WITH PROPER CARE, AN ADDITIONAL 4 TO 5 YEARS OF COMFORTABLE ACTIVE LIFE CAN BE OBTAINED.**

## **8.9 RIGHT-SIDE HEART FAILURE**

- This condition is associated with ascites (dropsy), which is the accumulation of fluid in the abdomen and lower limbs.

### **CLINICAL SIGNS**

Patients have a history of progressive lassitude, weakness in the hind limbs, enlargement of abdomen and reduced muscle mass of the loins and hindquarters.

### **TREATMENT**

Therapy under the guidance of your vet is likely to include cardiac therapeutic agents, diuretics and perhaps sterile drainage of the accumulated abdominal fluid.

If detected early and given adequate medical support, a greyhound with right-sided heart failure can also anticipate another 4 to 5 years of comfortable life.

## **8.10 ARTHRITIS**

- This ailment is common to all breeds of dog and can be first observed as a reluctance to move from a position of rest and a stiff or stilted gait.
- This can progress in time to an actual varying degree of lameness and swollen joints.
- When palpated the affected joint may be warm to the touch and painful on manipulation.
- It will vary in severity from time to time and will vary in location.
- The condition is aggravated by cold, forced excessive activity, jumping in and out of vehicles, or bedding that is not well padded.

### **TREATMENT**

- Tends not to be curative in the ageing greyhound.
- Your vet will advise as to the appropriate therapy with intra-articular or intra-muscular medications.



## 8.11 EUTHANASIA

- It is accepted that the euthanasia of some greyhounds is inevitable, as not all animals will be suitable for re-homing or breeding at the end of their racing careers.
- In such circumstances it is essential that the euthanasia is carried out without any pain or distress to the greyhound.
- The euthanasia of a greyhound shall only be carried out by a qualified person.

## 9. TRAVELLING

Car/Van: Temperatures should be in a range that is comfortable for people.

- Air conditioning is the ideal
- Without air conditioning, keep air moving by adjusting the windows and vents.

**NOTE:** Greyhounds cannot sweat to keep cool – they rely upon the evaporation of water from the lung and air passages for a cooling effect.

- Air in an enclosed vehicle can become so humid that respiratory evaporation almost ceases.
- This results in heat stress and muscle breakdown resulting in myoglobinuria (red coloured urine).
- In cold weather, blanketing is recommended if the car heater is insufficient.
- Good bedding insulates the floor of the vehicle against road heat and cold.
- One inch foam plastic or two folded blankets would be minimal for car bedding.
- Smoking within the vehicle carrying greyhounds should be strictly prohibited.
- The nicotine and tar derived chemicals from tobacco produce a marked constriction of the blood vessels in the lung and will impair oxygen uptake.
- Exhaust fumes contain carbon monoxide which combines chemically with the contents of the red blood cells and reduces their function.

### 9.1 TRAILER

When using a trailer the following are the considerations:

- Bedding is vital for comfort and insulation against road temperatures.
- Foam, plastic, paper or blanket as outlined in car travel is minimal.
- If using straw or paper at least 2 inches will offer suitable alternatives.
- Tyre pressure should be at the lower end of normal (this will minimise a hard or bouncy ride).
- Vent adjustments, to control airflow, must not permit exhaust fumes to be scooped into trailer.
- Use roof vents or relocate tailpipe outlet to side of vehicle.
- Partitioning of trailer should be secure without impeding airflow.
- Ensure sufficient space is available to the number of greyhounds travelling.



## 9.2 AIRPLANE

Well designed crates are available to buy or rent and will ensure a comfortable journey for your greyhound.

Whether you are travelling in the same plane or not, still label the crate as follows:

- Name and address of owner/trainer.
- Telephone number of owner.
- Flight number and airport of departure.
- Airport for unloading.
- Name, address and telephone number of person responsible for collecting the greyhound.
- The kennel name of the greyhound.

**NOTE:** Ensure you empty the greyhound upon arrival at the airport and again prior to loading into the crate if there is a delay in departure.

## 9.3 PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAVEL

### POOR TRAVELLERS

- These greyhounds are restless, bark during transit and pant throughout the trip, and may drool saliva excessively.
- These type of greyhounds should be provided more experience with trailer and car travel i.e. take the greyhound on short trips or trial runs to familiarise it with moving vehicles.
- Greyhounds that suffer nervous diarrhoea can be treated by your vet to control this problem.

### DEHYDRATION

- Weight loss during transit is due almost exclusively to fluid loss from the body i.e. dehydration.
- Fluid is lost with urine, bowel motion, respiration and drooling.
- When fluid is lost, so are electrolytes.

### TREATMENT/PREVENTION

- Supply a drink of water plus electrolytes 30 minutes before travel commences and repeat every 1 to 2 hours during the journey depending upon duration of travel and distress of the greyhound.

Note: For the longer type journey it is advisable to take your own food and water supplies.

- Carry water in clean, plastic containers.
- Be prepared for unforeseen delays from card breakdown, broken windscreen, traffic detours or poor weather conditions.
- If racing within a reasonable travelling distance (30-150 miles) it is desirable to take a prepared meal with you for the greyhound after the race or on the way home.
- Provision must be made to enable quick evacuation of greyhounds in the event of road traffic accidents.



## 10. TRACK MAINTENANCE

- The racing surface should be properly maintained at all times, in order to minimise injuries.
- The bend cambers should be maintained, so as to assist the greyhound while cornering.
- All ground staff should be fully trained and have appropriate equipment for track maintenance.
- The detailed procedures documented in the “Track Maintenance Manual” should be strictly adhered to.
- Track maintenance operations charter to be publicly displayed at all tracks.

### **NOTE: SEE TRACK MAINTENANCE MANUAL**

## 11. VETERINARY SURGEON

### **CONDITIONS FOR SERVICES WITH TRACK**

- To be present 15 minutes before racing commences.
- To check all racing sheets and muzzles on all dogs prior to their race.
- Observe the racing from a good vantage point.
- Carry out an examination of any greyhound pre or post race as requested by the stewards or the owner/trainer/agent.
- In the interest of best practice the veterinary surgeon should stay in the paddock area throughout the race meeting except during the race.
- It is strictly prohibited to either bet on the tote or with the bookmakers during a race meeting or to take alcoholic beverages before or during a meeting to be attended by a veterinary surgeon.

### **11.1 VETERINARY SURGEON'S ROOM**

- Should be clean and hygienic, well lit with a good table, a supply of hot water and a number of socket points.

### **11.2 TREATMENT**

- The surgeon will provide first aid to relieve pain. Where first aid is provided the owner/trainer/agent of the greyhound should be referred back to the veterinary surgeon of their choice for follow-up treatment if necessary.
- If euthanasia is prescribed, it may only be carried out with the signed prior consent of the owner/trainer/agent and carried out so as to minimise distress of the greyhound.



### 11.3 TRIALS

Track management should ensure that veterinary treatment is available and arrangements made for call-out service if necessary during trial session on non-race days (majority of tracks hold trials on race nights).

## 12. HARDWARE FOR PREVENTION/TREATMENT OF INJURIES

Physical therapy has a well established role in the treatment of injuries in greyhounds and in the main, can be administered by the owner/trainer.

Nearly all forms of physical therapy produce a local temperature rise with a consequent increase in local blood flow and it has been suggested that their primary benefit is associated with this action.

The following are the various forms of physical therapy that can and are being used in greyhounds:

**12.1 MASSAGE** – The application of a kneading, compressing or percussing action to the tissues of the greyhound by the hands of the owner/trainer or by a mechanical vibrator.

**12.2 HYDROTHERAPY** – is the application of heat to, or the removal of heat from, the body surface by means of water.

**12.3 ELECTROMAGNETIC THERAPY** – there are three main forms of electromagnetic therapy currently in use.

- **INFRARED THERAPY** – Employs an apparatus which emits invisible light rays above the red end of the light spectrum. The general physiological effects of this mode of treatment on body tissues are the same as for massage and hydrotherapy.
- **MICROWAVE THERAPY** – The penetration of microwaves is only a little deeper than that of infrared rays (1 to 2 cm) and so this form of therapy falls between infrared and diathermy.
- **DIATHERMY** – Heat is generated in the deeper tissues of the body by virtue of their resistance to high frequency alternating currents. With this treatment it is possible to heat the deeper structures in the body without heating the skin or underlying structures.

### 12.4 ULTRASOUND

Ultrasonic waves have a wavelength above the audible range. They are produced by conversion of a high frequency electrical current in a crystal or ceramic compound in the head of the instrument.

- The wave can penetrate the body to a depth of 5cm or more.
- They produce three physiological effects – Thermal, Mechanical and Chemical.



## **THERMAL**

The ultrasound energy is transformed to heat, increasing blood flow and stimulating the healing process.

## **MECHANICALLY**

It has an oscillating action within the tissues which has been called 'micro' or 'vibratory' massage.

## **CHEMICALLY**

It increases cellular permeability and therefore, the diffusion of ions into and out of the cells.

**12.5 FARADISM** - Faradic current is derived from the secondary wiring of an induction coil.

- The therapeutic effect is produced not by heat but by the electric current stimulating rhythmic contraction of muscle which disperses inflammatory fluids, breaking down adhesions, increases circulation, and has a general "toning up" effect on muscles.

**12.6 MAGNETIC FIELD THERAPY** – Pulsating electro-magnetic fields of varying extremely low frequency (ELF) are used for therapeutic purposes.

**12.7 LASER TREATMENTS** – Normally dividing cells emit a weak form of radiant energy (mitogenic radiation) which has the power to stimulate adjacent cells to divide.

- If this energy form is interfered with, the regeneration (healing) slows down and may even stop.
- The laser beam is able to stimulate these dormant processes to recommence and so restore to some extent the inherent healing processes of the body at a local level.
- Using the beam as an acupuncture tool, the competent therapist can re-establish meridian energy flow and thus enhance the healing of the body as a whole.

## **13. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

The welfare of the greyhound is always uppermost in the mind of those who care for them on a daily basis, thus great care is taken with matters such as food and exercise. Concern for the greyhound is probably at its highest during periods of injury or sickness and every effort is made to administer the best medicines. However, it is important to allow adequate withdrawal times between administration of such therapeutic medications and the competition.

This section seeks to increase awareness among owners and trainers of the considerations involved in administering therapeutic substances to the racing greyhound.

The owner/trainer is always responsible for any prohibited substance residues present in a greyhound's urine or body fluid and it should also be noted that compliance with any published detection period will not constitute a defence to the presence of a prohibited substance in a sample.



### 13.1 FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE WITHDRAWAL TIMES

- **DOSE** – Medications administered at high doses – say hundreds of milligrams (or even grams) are more likely to be detectable for longer periods than medications administered at milligram doses.

**PRECAUTION:** Be aware of the actual quantity, in grams, milligrams, or micrograms per administration of the medications you administer; always follow the manufacturer’s directions and the advice of your prescribing veterinarian.

- **ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION**

Oral administration can greatly prolong withdrawal times. It may take several days for pills or tablets to pass through the intestinal tract of a dog; a pill or tablet that breaks down slowly in the intestinal tract can potentially release medication into a dog’s system for several days.

**PRECAUTION:** Avoid oral administrations close to race time. Therapeutic medications that are so administered should, where appropriate, be administered intravenously by your prescribing veterinarian.

- **FREQUENCY OF MEDICATION USE**

Repeated or long-term administrations of some medications, especially repeated oral administrations can greatly extend withdrawal times.

**PRECAUTION:** Where possible, avoid repeated or prolonged schedules of administration.

- **TIME OF LAST MEAL**

If medications are administered orally, recent food intake is likely to reduce the peak blood concentration attained and delay the time at which peak blood concentration is reached, as food may interfere with absorption of the medication into the bloodstream.

- **RELEASE TIMES OF THE MEDICATION PREPARATION**

Sustained-release preparations for either oral or intramuscular use may be specifically formulated to delay release of the medication into the dog’s system, thereby extending withdrawal times.

**PRECAUTION:** Where possible, avoid sustained-release preparations, for example “Depot Medrol” (ingredient: methyl prednisolone) and “Voren” (active ingredient: dexamethasone nicotinate) preparations.

- **MEDICATION FORMULATION**

For any dosage form other than simple intravenous (IV) administration, variations in formulation of a medication may result in substantially different withdrawal times. The variations can be quite significant among different oral formulations.

**PRECAUTION:** Never assume that seemingly similar products from different manufacturers will have same withdrawal times.



• **CONTAMINATION OF THE GREYHOUND'S ENVIRONMENT**

A kennel (including the food and water bowls) that a dog inhabits during a course of therapy may become contaminated with the medication in question. This may occur if the medication is administered parenterally (other than orally). Contamination is obviously much more likely to occur if the medication is administered orally or in the feed at relatively large doses.

**PRECAUTION:** Care should be taken with orally-administered medication to ensure that the kennel does not become contaminated or that other dogs in the kennel do not become exposed to medication. Move a treated dog to a fresh kennel during the withdrawal period prior to competition in order to eliminate the possibility of kennel or environmental contamination extending the withdrawal time.

• **OTHER FACTORS**

Individual variation between animals (e.g. amount of body fat), the gender of the dog, administration of other medications, the health of the dog (especially liver function) and the amount of stress that the dog is subjected to is some additional factors that may affect drug metabolism and withdrawal times.

**NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUG (NSAID) WITHDRAWAL TIMES**

NSAIDs are generally used to treat mild to moderate pain, especially pain that has a component of inflammation. They reduce pain and inflammation arising from injured tissue. A list of suggested clearance times for legitimate medications in the USA has been produced by researchers in that country. The list has been derived from surveys of greyhound veterinarians and other sources, including a large two-year drug administration study. The study developed a protocol in which drugs were administered to greyhounds with at least five dogs receiving each individual drug. Urine was collected from each greyhound at zero hour (i.e. prior to drug administration) and at intervals post administration. NSAID results were as follows:

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Study Dose</b>	<b>Clearance Time (Hours)</b>
Flunixin (as meglumine)	2.2mg/kg, oral ingestion	72
Ibuprofen	200mg, oral ingestion	48
Ketoprofen	25mg, oral ingestion	Greater than 96
Phenylbutazone	500mg, oral ingestion	Approx. 72 (single dose)
		Approx. 96 (multiple dose)

The authors stress that all suggested clearance times are only guidelines for veterinary and owner/trainer use and that the owner/trainer is always responsible for any drug residues present in a greyhound's urine.

**CONCLUSION:** Trainers are urged to seek veterinary advice regarding the use of any medication close to a race or qualifying trial in order to avoid a positive test result.



## 14 KENNEL MANAGEMENT

The following is a summary of kennel requirements which will ensure the well being of your greyhound.

- **BUILDING** – Draught proof with insulated roof, enough headroom for a person to walk upright.
- **VENTILATION** – Must be adequate and be regulated according to weather conditions. It should be provided to all interior areas without the creation of excessive, localised draughts in the bedding area.
- **SLEEPING AREA** – Must be insulated so as to prevent extremes of temperature.
- **MATERIALS** – All internal and external surfaces used in the construction of walls, floors, partitions, doors and door frames to be durable, smooth and impervious. There must be no projections or rough edges liable to cause injury
- **PARTITIONS** – Partitions between greyhounds should allow for some social contact while preventing any injury from possible aggression and this may best be achieved using a wire mesh construction.
- **ISOLATION KENNELS** – An isolation kennel area of the same standard as the main kennels should be maintained. Isolation kennels must be separate and physically isolated from the main kennels. It is recommended that this separation must be a minimum of 5M (15 ft).
- Adequate facilities to prevent the spread of infectious disease between the isolation and other kennels must be provided.
- Protective clothing and equipment for use in the isolation facility must be used to prevent the spread of disease.
- Hands must be washed before leaving the isolation facility and visiting other kennels.
- **FLOORS** – All floors of kennels and individual exercise areas should be constructed and maintained in such a condition as to prevent ponding of liquids.
- **DOORS** – Kennel doors must be strong enough to resist impact and scratching. They must be capable of being effectively secured.
- **CEILINGS** – Must be capable of being easily cleansed.
- **WINDOWS** – All windows which pose a security risk must be escape proof at all times.
- **DRAINAGE** – The kennels should be connected to the mains drainage system or an approved, localised sewage disposal system.
- **MAINTENANCE** – Maintenance and repair of the whole establishment should be carried out regularly.
- **PADDOCKS** – There should be a wired-in run or paddock attached to each range of kennels where dogs exercise.
- Droppings should be removed on a daily basis and the paddocks kept clean and tidy.
- **KITCHEN FACILITIES** – Facilities should be hygienically constructed and maintained.
- Where fresh and cooked meats are stored, refrigeration facilities should be provided, and potential food contamination must be avoided.
- A sink and cold water to be provided for the washing of food equipment and eating and drinking vessels.
- If staff are employed, a separate wash-hand basin with hot and cold water should be provided for use.
- Containers should be provided for the storage of food and shall be so constructed and kept in such good order, repair and condition as to proof against insects and other pests.



## 15 GREYHOUNDS AS PETS

Retired racing greyhounds are dogs like all others but they have some unique characteristics. They are generally intelligent, sensitive, gentle and sociable dogs which readily adapt to life as a family pet. Despite the image people have of them, they do not require lots of exercise. One twenty minute walk a day is all that is required to keep them happy and healthy.

Like any other pet, the greyhound will find the cosiest place (usually your bed or sofa) and will be content to sleep there all day. Despite being large dogs, they can curl up in small areas, and seldom get under your feet.

Greyhounds rarely bark, usually only when something is wrong or when they get very excited. If you want a guard dog, the greyhound is not the breed for you. They will 'watch' everything – but that's usually as far as they go. For most greyhounds, everyone they meet is greeted as a friend. Greyhounds are great learners and may rub up against your leg like a cat.

As an owner, you can assist in making your greyhound's transition from racing greyhound to pet as follows:

- Get the greyhound used to spending time loose in the back yard – pet homes do not generally have kennels and runs
- Take him/her out on street walks to different places – to the park; past the local school or shopping centre; beside busy roads, etc.
- Bring him or her into the house for short periods
- Introduce him/her to stairs and slippery floor surfaces like tiles, linoleum or polished floor boards
- Introduce him/her to other animals under controlled circumstances – other dog breeds, horses, caged birds and poultry
- Most retired greyhounds adapt very quickly to life as a family pet and companion. Greyhounds tend to glide effortlessly into their new roles as 'couch potatoes'.
- Things they have probably never experienced before include, stairs, slippery floors, mirrors, glass doors, television and vacuum cleaners.
- As they are naturally very clean animals, house training is generally not a problem, once a daily routine has been established.
- Most greyhounds are seasoned travellers and really enjoy rides in the car.

## CONCLUSION

The important benefits of the humane and kind treatment of your greyhound can almost go without saying. A content and confident greyhound is always more likely to perform better, is easier to sell and promote for breeding, and, for those who want to home retired greyhounds, are more likely to be adopted. Well cared for greyhounds are a credit to the industry and to the breed and a constant focus by owners, breeders and trainers on all welfare related issues will ensure the highest standards are attained.

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