



# GRNSW On Track Veterinarian Manual

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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The purpose of this manual is to set out standard processes performed by an On-Track Veterinarian (OTV), their duties and responsibilities and race track protocols. It aims to achieve uniformity and a consistently high standard of professional conduct of veterinarian services at New South Wales greyhound race tracks.

## **2. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OTV**

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The primary responsibility of the OTV is the welfare of the greyhound in consideration of:

- (a) its general health;
- (b) the possibility that running will make a particular condition or injury worse; and
- (c) the transmission of any contagious or infectious disease to other greyhounds being kennelled with it.

The secondary responsibility of the OTV is to contribute to the integrity of racing by ensuring the suitability of racing greyhounds and protect the betting public by observing race meetings and reporting observed or suspected misconduct to on track stewards. These responsibilities must not conflict with the delivery of animal welfare which must be the first priority of the OTV.

The OTV is present to act on behalf of the greyhound, and ensure that no cruelty occurs.

The OTV's loyalties and responsibilities should be determined with the greyhound in mind.

The OTV while on duty, shall not bet or gamble in any manner, sell or dispense drugs to clients, conduct private consultations with clients, or behave in any manner which would compromise their professional standing.

Any disrespectful or uncooperative behaviour by trainers or owners should not be tolerated by the OTV, and should be reported to the on track steward.

If in any doubt regarding any aspects of the required official duties or any procedure, the OTV should seek advice from the on track steward, the GRNSW Chief Steward, or the GRNSW Chief Veterinary Officer.

## **3. THE ROLE OF THE OTV**

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The primary role of the OTV is to ensure the highest standard of animal welfare of all animals present at race meetings. The code of conduct for veterinarians registered in New South Wales is set out in Schedule 2 of the *Veterinarian Practice Regulation 2013*. All veterinarians are expected to have knowledge of and carry out their role in compliance with this code.

At race meetings the OTV is required to:

- (a) At kennelling, inspect every greyhound entered to race or trial to ensure all greyhounds competing are free from injury or illness and are, in the OTV's opinion, suitable to race.

- (b) Observe all greyhounds paraded pre-race to check for injuries during kennelling and when possible, observe races and trials and identify any dogs injured or suspected of injury.
- (c) Communicate with the on track steward to identify and re-examine any dogs nominated by the on track steward as requiring re-examination particularly those suspected of injury or poor performance.
- (d) Inform the on track steward of the result of veterinarian examinations (e.g. no injury, nature of injury and stand down period).
- (e) Provide first aid to any animals identified as injured following examination.
- (f) Provide recommendations to the on track steward of mandatory incapacitation periods to allow rehabilitation of injured animals or any animals with reasonable suspicion of injury based on performance.
- (g) Liaise with other official race staff particularly the on track steward and track manager on any relevant issues with the potential to affect animal welfare in particular race day weather and track condition.
- (h) Provide a correct and accurate record of all examinations (excluding routine pre-race exams) and any findings.
- (i) Provide a correct and accurate record of any treatments administered to greyhounds and inform trainers of medications or treatments so they may maintain their own records.

The OTV also has a secondary role in ensuring the integrity of races. Specifically this involves:

- (a) Examination, before kennelling, of all bitches entering the kennel for evidence of oestrus and if oestrus is detected the animal must not contend any race or trial and be removed from the kennel.
- (b) Prior to any race and trial observe all animals and ensure any additional racing equipment including muzzles and strapping will not hinder the animal's performance and is in accordance with club steward approval.
- (c) Collecting race day urine, saliva and (when appropriate) blood samples as requested the on track steward.
- (d) Examine greyhounds, at the request of the on track steward, for poor performance in comparison to reasonable expectation or existing form, failure to chase or fighting during the race.
- (e) Liaise with GRNSW Integrity and Conduct or organise post mortem examinations as requested by the stewards.

No private veterinary procedure or consultation including vaccinations shall be carried out by the OTV whilst the OTV is on official duty at a race meeting. Any such private work must be carried out at the conclusion of the meeting when all OTV duties have been completed.

In circumstances of bona fide clients, OTVs may dispense medication, if pre-arranged with the clients and with the permission of the on track steward. The dispensing of any medication to bona fide clients must occur completely outside the kennel block (e.g. in the car park) and only when the client has completely finished all racing commitments for the meeting. Such medications

should only be dispensed in a sealed container or bag. The OTV should wash their hands if any of the medications are handled.

#### **4. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STEWARDS AND THE OTV**

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The on track steward is empowered to conduct and run the proceedings of the race and the OTV should report to the on track steward. In most cases there will be agreement between the on track steward and the OTV and the on track stewards will make decisions based on the OTV's advice and findings.

When there are disagreements which have the potential to affect the welfare of a greyhound, the decision should be that which proceeds with the greatest caution to protect the greyhound at the track.

If either the on track steward or the OTV believes an animal should be scratched or the race abandoned then consensus is not required. Similarly, if there is disagreement with regards to an incapacity time suggested for a greyhound, then the longer time should be used.

Neither the OTV nor the on track steward has the power to override the other's decision if they feel a race should be abandoned, an animal scratched, or an incapacity time enforced.

However, when such disagreements arise, both parties are encouraged to come to a mutual agreement. The OTV is encouraged to seek the advice of the Chief Veterinary Officer or the Principal Veterinarian.

#### **5. PROVISIONS AND SUPPLIES**

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##### 5.1 Drugs and Supplies

The following list of drugs and supplies are considered the minimum that must be available at the track to provide adequate first aid at the track. It should not be necessary for a greyhound to be taken to a private veterinary clinic for administration of first aid.

- (a) euthanasia solution;
- (b) sedatives (Acepromazine or Medetomidine);
- (c) injectable antibiotics (N.B. antibiotic tablets are not required);
- (d) local anaesthetics;
- (e) non-steroidal pain relief (e.g. Carprofen or Meloxicam);
- (f) intravenous fluids, intravenous catheters and giving sets;
- (g) opioid analgesia (N.B. opioid analgesia allows the rapid delivery of potent analgesia to injured animals where non-steroidal therapy alone is deemed insufficient or inappropriate (due to risk of acute renal injury secondary to concurrent hypotension or pigmenturia). It is the responsibility of the OTV to meet the requirements detailed by the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966* in particular with regards to storage, handling and record keeping of Schedule 8 medications.)

## 5.2 Supplies

- (a) stretch non-adhesive bandages (e.g. vet wrap) bandage 50, 75 , and 100 mm;
- (b) elastic adhesive tape (Elastoplast is the preferred product) 2.5, 5.0, and 7.5 cm;
- (c) antiseptic solution;
- (d) cotton wool, gauze and conforming bandages;
- (e) splint material sufficient to stabilise fractures distal to the humerus or femur;
- (f) materials to apply a Robert-Jones bandage;
- (g) syringes (20ml, 10ml, 5ml, and 2ml);
- (h) needles (21g, 23g and 25g);
- (i) sterile swab sticks to detect oestrus;
- (j) EDTA blood tubes;
- (k) plain blood tubes
- (l) sterile urine jars
- (m) pathology jars with formalin for histopathology samples.

## 5.3 Instruments

- (a) basic surgery kit, including scissors, haemostats, needle drivers, tissue forceps and swabs;
- (b) bowls for disinfectant or saline;
- (c) suture material (absorbable and non-absorbable either swaged on or separate with needles);
- (d) stethoscope (the OTV is responsible for providing this);
- (e) thermometer;
- (f) nail clippers; and
- (g) body bags.

## 5.4 Examination Room

The OTV attending race meetings will have available a separate examination room within the kennelling complex with equipped with supplies mentioned in this section, hot and cold running water, a sink, ample bench space, an examination table, seats and paper towels. In addition, the following minimum requirements for the examination room should be maintained.

- (a) Ice packs.

- (b) Lockable cupboards for drug storage.
- (c) Provision of refrigerated storage facilities, for medication.
- (d) A current copy of GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules.
- (e) Facilities for transportation of severely injured or dead greyhounds, including a large stretcher or other appropriate transport such as “golf buggy”.
- (f) Provision of screens to be used should an injured greyhound require euthanasia whilst in view of the general public.
- (g) Provision for the storage and disposal of deceased greyhounds. (N.B. the disposal of the bodies is the responsibility of the race clubs and should be done in the consultation with the OTV.)
- (h) A sign with the names and contact details of the nearest after hours veterinary service or emergency clinic for display in the kennel area.
- (i) Free and easy access to all parts of the race track including a position designated by the stewards, where an uninterrupted view of all races may be obtained. Alternatively there should be access to a TV monitor showing the races.
- (j) A race book and a *Veterinarian Examination Details* book.
- (k) A copy of the scratchings and reserves for the meeting.

## **6. KENNELING INSPECTION**

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The OTV will travel to race meetings using their own transport. Generally kennelling starts 90 minutes before the first race. It is advisable to arrive at the racetrack 30 minutes prior to the beginning of kennelling time (or as advised by the club) to ensure ample time. Some tracks may have altered kennelling time, in particular those holding more than 10 races.

On arrival the OTV should report to the on track steward in the kennel building. The OTV should become familiar with the layout of the race track and its facilities.

The pre-race observation is aimed primarily at detecting greyhounds with obvious serious injuries, in poor physical condition, with contagious conditions, or in oestrus, that may have been missed by the check by the on track steward at kennelling. It should be as thorough as possible in the limited time available.

The handlers lead the greyhounds up onto a platform table so that the OTV may examine them. This is carried out in the main kennel room to enable the public to view this preliminary examination.

The OTV should alert on track stewards as to greyhounds in poor condition, or greyhounds with fleas or other parasites, or if it is considered inappropriate to race the greyhound from an animal welfare point of view. The on track steward will then consider scratching or otherwise.

The OTV should examine the greyhound’s general condition, examining in particular the following:

- (a) Eyes for chronic superficial keratitis (pannus), conjunctivitis, perilimbal hyperaemia, constricted or dilated pupils.
- (b) Throat for upper respiratory tract infections. Check tracheal irritation and examine the pharynx of any dog heard coughing. Ensure hands are washed in disinfectant before and after examining a dog's throat.
- (c) Coat for any contagious skin diseases such as mange or ringworm, for any external parasites (e.g. fleas, lice etc and for cuts or abrasions).
- (d) The presence of liniments. Greyhounds are not permitted to have liniment applied to the skin before entering the kennels. The OTV should inform the on track steward of any greyhounds presented in this manner.
- (e) The musculoskeletal system of each greyhound, checking for any obvious lameness. The examination should include as a minimum:
  - (i) Palpation of the main shoulder muscles. Ensure both long heads of triceps are not injured.
  - (ii) Flexion and palpation of the wrists and palpation of the metacarpal bones.
  - (iii) Palpation of the main muscles of the hind limb. Ensure the origin and insertion of both gracilis muscles are not injured.
  - (iv) Examination for track leg problems (swelling on the medial tibia).
  - (v) Examination of the toes, pads, nails and webbing of all feet.
- (f) The vulva of every bitch to ensure she is not on season. If a bitch is suspected of being in pro-oestrus or oestrus, it may be necessary to carefully insert a sterile swab stick into the vagina to detect the presence of blood.

The presence of any of the above conditions must be reported to the on track steward.

If the OTV considers that a greyhound presented should not be permitted to race, the on track steward observing pre-kennel examinations, should be consulted.

The on track steward may request the handler, greyhound and OTV to proceed to the separate examination room. The OTV will determine if it is appropriate for the greyhound to race, and if it is allowed to be kennelled (for example, where possible, dogs with infectious disease should not be kennelled with other dogs).

Where a greyhound has a weight variation of greater than 1 kg from its declared weight, the OTV may be asked by the stewards to examine the dog for signs of illness.

Many owners/trainers and handlers become emotional when the OTVs examination does not proceed smoothly. Having prepared the greyhound for this competition, they may express dissatisfaction if the greyhound is scratched, no matter what the reason. The OTV's duty is firstly to the welfare of the greyhound and to suggest a recommended course of action.

Any greyhound scratched at the time of kennelling due to injury or illness is classified as a 'late scratching' and is given a stand-down penalty determined by the OTV. In general a minimum incapacity period of 10 days is given to any late scratchings. The OTV will need to complete a *Veterinarian Examination Details* form which is supplied by GRNSW and should be made

available by the club. When determining the stand down period it is important to consider that some dogs will be trialled or worked leading up to race day and as such the actual rest time may be less than the stand down time given.

In the event of hot weather the OTV should discuss this issue with the stewards and ensure compliance with GRNSW's Hot Weather Policy.

In hot weather it is necessary to be very vigilant. If a dog has a weight variation between kennelling and the race and has dark urine consider scratching.

## **7. TAPING AT KENNELING**

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The OTV also assists with any taping of greyhounds after the kennelling inspection at the request of the trainer or handler. The owner or trainer is permitted to have their greyhound taped provided that it is endorsed on the racing papers. The OTV routinely applies the prescribed taping(s), but the owner, trainer or handler is permitted to perform the taping under the supervision of the veterinarian.

Common tapings used are adhesive and non-adhesive stretch tapes. It is recommended that due to quality and consistency only Elastoplast® adhesive tape be used.

Brands of non-adhesive tape used are at the discretion of the OTV.

When determining the tape to be used and method of application, the following guidelines may assist:

- (a) 2.5cm tape– 1½ to 2 times around the dew claws. Always lift up one foot and tape the foot which rests on the ground. This ensures that the tape is not applied too tightly.
- (b) 5cm tape – 1½ to 2 times around the metacarpal bones. Lift one foot and tape the opposite metacarpal region, covering the dew claw while the foot rests on the ground.
- (c) 5cm tape – 1½ to 2½ times around track leg. Bandage firmly but not too tightly. Handlers may request a small piece of sponge rubber or several thickness of Elastoplast to be placed firstly over the tibial swelling. The tape is usually cut on its caudal aspect over the achilles tendon. Two incisions (each approximately 0.5cm to 1.0cm in length) are made in the top and bottom edges of the tape parallel to the achilles tendon to reduce any restriction of the tendon action.
- (d) 3mm tape (cut from 2.5cm) around the nail/skin junction to minimise sand irritation of the nail bed.
- (e) 1cm tape around two or four toes between the metacarpal/metatarsal pad and the digital pads to prevent the toes from splaying excessively. Alternatively, a readymade rubber or elastic band approximately 1cm wide can be used.
- (f) 2cm tape above and below the accessory carpal bone.
- (g) Miscellaneous tapings according to the wishes of the trainers/handlers.
- (h) Rubber bands may be applied to support toe ligaments.

Greyhounds presented with bandages on their tail tips should be examined carefully. If it appears they are present to protect a minor tail bleed and the bandage is well placed the OTV may be

satisfied to leave these in place. If there is any concern that significant wounds are beneath the bandage these should be removed to permit examination.

The use of glued-on or adhesive patches for track legs or similar problems is not permitted. Greyhounds presented with these already applied must have them removed and the area underneath examined.

Powder and petroleum Jelly (Vaseline) are made available for use. The trainer/handler applies these. Petroleum jelly is used mainly on the lateral aspect of the left elbow, and the medial aspect of the left tibia (area of track leg) to cushion any possible blows. Petroleum jelly may be applied around the nail/skin junction to prevent paronychia.

Powder is often used between the hind legs to prevent chafing of genitals.

## **8. OBSERVING GREYHOUNDS PRIOR TO THE RACE**

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Whenever possible the OTV should observe the Greyhounds as they come out of the kennels and parade prior to the race. This allows the OTV to ensure that any strapping placed on the greyhound has been correctly applied and is not restrictive, that there is no new lameness or injury, and to ensure that animals have not suffered any illness (e.g. vomiting, over exertion, dehydration and heat exhaustion) whilst in the kennel. The OTV may request to briefly examine a dog if injury or illness is suspected and may ask the trainer to remove and reapply any incorrectly applied strapping.

Though not the direct responsibility of the OTV, it is helpful to identify any animals with blinkers, or other racing equipment to confirm this is allowed.

This observation should only occur when commitment to other duties, especially that of providing first aid to injured animals, allows it.

If a greyhound shows obvious and significant weight loss, any obvious lameness following kennelling, or a serious injury has been sustained in the kennels, the OTV should notify the on track steward immediately and request a closer examination. The OTV will be required to complete a *Veterinarian Examination Details* form.

## **9. OBSERVING THE RACE**

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The OTV should observe each race from a position that allows a good vantage of the race but also allows quick access to the track. Viewing the race will allow important information on the type of injuries sustained and evaluation of greyhounds deemed to have 'failed to chase'.

It is important that if a greyhound falls or is injured on the track and fails to finish the race, it is restrained as soon as possible to prevent further injury to itself and potentially other dogs.

## **10. EXAMINING GREYHOUNDS AFTER RACING**

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The on track steward may ask for a particular greyhound to be presented for examination for evidence of injury after the completion of a race.

A greyhound may have been observed to race inconsistently, may have been observed to be injured in the race, may have been observed not to chase the lure keenly throughout the entire race, or may have been observed to turn its head to face or fight another race contestant.

These greyhounds must be given a thorough physical examination.

The greyhound may be examined on the table or on the floor in the OTVs room.

A steward and the owner/trainer or handler should be present at this examination.

The post race examination should be a detailed examination but in particular should aim to identify injuries to the following:

- (a) long head of the triceps muscle
- (b) gracillus muscle (may be insertion or attachment)
- (c) carpus and tarsus joints ranging from strains to dislocations and fractures
- (d) stress fractures to the metacarpus (inside leg 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> digits and outside leg 2<sup>nd</sup> digit in particular)
- (e) gastrocnemius muscle and/or tendon
- (f) accessory carpal bone
- (g) toes including dislocations and fractures
- (h) pectoral muscles
- (i) adductor muscles in particular the pectineus muscle

It can be difficult to detect injury in a greyhound immediately post-race. It may be prudent to request a second examination some time later (usually about one hour) when the greyhound has “cooled” down.

Stewards and trainers may also request an examination when the greyhound has “cooled” down.

Often the exact nature and extent of injury will not be evident until several hours later or even the next day.

It may be beneficial to have the greyhound walk with the handler in the main kennel room to help identify the injury.

The description of the injury should be concise and instructive and preferably use the anatomical name, e.g.

Left hamstring (Semimembranosus and Semitendinosus)

Left back muscle (Gracilis)

Right Wrist (Carpus)

In general when a steward requests a greyhound to be examined after the race, the OTV will be given the race papers of the dog (usually a staff member in charge of ID's of the dogs will provide these). The OTV should retain these papers until instructed to do so by the steward. ???

After the examination the greyhound should be kennelled and the papers given to the steward or at the steward's direction given back to the trainer.

When any greyhound is examined beyond that of the routine prerace examinations a *Veterinary Examination Details* form is to be completed. This is to be done even if no injury is found.

The OTV must communicate the outcome of the examination. OTV is required to follow the "Steward Reporting Process for injury, fatality and related euthanasia information" in Appendix 2 regarding communication to the steward of the dogs examined, the outcomes of examination and stand down periods.

The OTV attending TAB meetings are required to enter all findings into OzChase. If the examination findings are recorded into Ozchase at the same day as the race meet, then an Veterinary Examination Details form is not required.

## 11. STAND-DOWN PENALTIES

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Although it is difficult to standardise stand down penalties for various injuries when adequate care and physiotherapy can hasten repair, the final decision rests on the exact nature of the injury and the OTVs personal experience. Injury penalties range from 0-90 days.

The OTV will set the penalty after examination of the greyhound. It is within the steward's power to extend the penalty and when there is disagreement, the longer penalty should be used to safeguard the animal's welfare. The steward does not however have the power to remove a penalty enforced by the OTV.

The following guide can be used:

Minor skin wounds, spikes, grazes	0-7 days
Grade 1 muscle injuries:	5-7 days
Grade 2 muscle injuries:	2-3 weeks
Grade 3 muscle injuries:	3-6 weeks
Gracilis tear:	3 months
Triceps tear:	4-6 weeks
Tensor fascia lata tear:	4 weeks
Carpal and tarsal sprain:	3 weeks
Flexor carpi ulnaris sprain:	2-4 weeks
Gastrocnemius tendon sprain:	2-4 weeks
Toe collateral ligament sprain:	1-3 weeks

Bone fractures: 6 weeks plus

When an incapacity time is given to a greyhound, the trainer and the steward must be made aware of this. Some trainers may have intentions for greyhounds to participate in upcoming races and may react negatively to incapacity times especially when given by an unfamiliar OTV. Where the OTV deems an incapacity time as appropriate it should be enforced and again the primary concern should always remain that of the greyhound's welfare.

Regardless of the outcome of the OTV examination the on track steward may enforce a penalty to the greyhound (referred to as a "ticket") for poor performance, failure to chase or marring. In the event that no injury is found and a ticket is likely to be issued, the trainer may reasonably request a second examination several races after the first to allow time for the dog to cool down which commonly allows for identification of minimally painful injuries. The vet should also feel confident to suggest examining the dog after a couple of races once it has cooled down.

## 12. TREATMENT

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Greyhounds injured during a race are provided with first aid treatment. A principal aim of any treatment is to keep the greyhound comfortable overnight prior to it being treated further by the "usual" veterinarian the next day.

The nature of this first aid treatment depends on the extent of injury sustained and the facilities available. It is assumed that the OTV will take all appropriate measures to alleviate pain and stabilise the greyhound's condition. The trainer should be advised of the nearest veterinary emergency centre or after hours veterinary service in cases where on-going treatment is needed.

There should be basic surgical equipment at all tracks however it is at the OTV's discretion to perform minor surgical procedures at the track. These include most commonly minor stitch ups and repair of split webbings.

### 12.1 Wounds

Commencing any procedure that may potentially take a long time may disrupt the normal work flow of a race meeting. The owner or trainer has the right to ask for *minor* surgical procedures to be performed at the track, however, the decision to perform surgery on the track is always that of the OTV and will reflect the ability to provide adequate analgesia, sterility and where appropriate local anaesthesia. As a general rule the OTV is expected to attempt to surgically repair all small skin lacerations where reasonably possible. Depending on the OTV's competency and preference and the ability to achieve adequate sterility and immobilization, the OTV may repair split webbings and more invasive injuries. The final decision as to what procedures are carried out rests with the OTV on duty, but it is important to consider all the implications and aspects of the injury before commencing treatment.

A general anaesthetic should not be undertaken.

As there may be limited veterinary services available in the town, the OTV is obliged to provide effective first aid when this is likely to be the only form of service available at that time of night or on weekends. (Most major areas have veterinary clinics with after-hours services and the metropolitan areas have 24 hour emergency clinics). The trainer is obliged to travel to a veterinary clinic when the condition of the dog requires this.

The principles of post-race first aid are to stabilise the patient, prevent further injury and to avoid jeopardising or adversely influencing further treatment or surgery that may be required. Minor procedures should be undertaken by the officiating OTV as soon as practicable, or as dictated by

the greyhound's condition. More involved treatments or surgical procedures, of a non-urgent nature, should be referred to the "usual" veterinarian. This includes split webbing and large wounds. Urgent matters should be referred to an emergency service.

Minor skin wounds should be cleansed and dressed or sutured as needed. Prophylactic antibiotics are given if necessary. Supportive bandages are to be applied where needed.

If the OTV is unsure of the extent of injury, then it is preferable to adopt conservative care, institute supportive therapy and send the greyhound home for examination by the "usual" veterinarian. At all times cruelty and pain must be avoided.

Once the greyhound has been discharged from the track with the appropriate first aid treatment, the cost of extra service is to be borne by the owner or trainer.

The owner or trainer should not be involved with the cost of any veterinary services provided by the club on race night.

The cost of drugs and disposable equipment and materials is borne by the club by inclusion of the cost in the OTV's fee or by billing to the club any extra materials used.

The OTV should arrange for a sign with the names and contact details of the nearest after hours veterinary service or emergency clinic to be displayed in the kennel area. The OTV shall supply printed handouts with the same information for owners and trainers.

If a greyhound does receive cutaneous sutures it must not race until these sutures are removed. It is often helpful to remind the trainer of this requirement as small sutures inadvertently left in may be missed at pre race checks.

## 12.2 Dislocations

Where possible any dislocation should be reduced and the affected joint bandaged.

Sedation may be required. If the dislocation cannot be reduced under sedation the foot should be bandaged and referred to the trainer's usual veterinarian.

## 12.3 Fractures

Fractures should be reduced where possible and a supportive Robert Jones type bandage applied. Large amounts of cotton wool padding must be used to prevent movement. Tape stirrups should be avoided due to the possibility of skin ulceration. The joint above and below the fracture (or dislocation) must be included in the bandage. The toes must be included in the bandage otherwise swelling will occur.

## 12.4 Anaesthesia and sedation

It is considered appropriate to use sedation to treat minor injuries.

A general anaesthesia shall not be administered during a race meeting unless in extremely mitigating situations. A general anaesthetic should never be undertaken unless there is resuscitation equipment available.

Local anaesthetic should be utilised where appropriate.

GRNSW Rule 84A requires that trainers maintain a record of all medications administered to greyhounds in this care. The trainer of the greyhound should be reminded of this obligation and where ever possible given a document detailing the following:

- (a) Name of the greyhound.
- (b) Date of administration of the treatment.
- (c) Name of the treatment (brand name or active constituent).
- (d) Route of administration.
- (e) Amount given.
- (f) Name and signature of person or persons administering and/or authorising treatment.

The trainer must also be made aware of any potential withholding periods. In general all the medications usually stocked on the track have a withholding period of less than 7 days. Further information may be found on the Greyhounds Australasia website or by

Animals which are expected to receive subsequent veterinary care from a third party veterinarian may benefit from having a detailed history supplied to the trainer to be given to their own veterinarian. This should be done at the discretion of the OTV. The *Veterinarian Examination Details* form is in triplicate so that a copy should be provided to the trainer.

When a greyhound is seriously injured and requires on-going treatment immediately after the meeting, the OTV should provide clear directions for the owners/trainers to the nearest veterinary clinic or veterinary emergency centre that is able to care for the dog. The instruction to seek follow up treatment must be marked on the Veterinary Examination Details Form under the section **REQUIRES FOLLOW-UP VET CONSULTATION**. The owner will then be phoned by a GRNSW veterinarian to follow up on the outcome of this treatment.

### 13. EUTHANASIA

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Euthanasia may be performed at the track by the OTV, with the permission of the owner, trainer or handler. Euthanasia Consent Forms must be filled out, and signed.

Post-race euthanasia may be a very distressing activity for all parties concerned. It is incumbent on the OTV to be certain that the best course of action to prevent suffering to the greyhound is euthanasia.

Only two people representing the injured greyhound should be present at the euthanasia. This is to avoid a room full of people which may create awkward or unpleasant circumstances, and compromise drug and other security matters in the OTVs room or kennel area.

The greyhound should be carried into a private examination room for this procedure unless movement of the dog would cause additional distress.

If euthanasia is to be performed in a public area, the club must provide screens so that the public are not able to observe this procedure. The club should also provide coverings for the body if it has to be carried through a public area.

Euthanasia is by intravenous injection of pentobarbitone 300 mg / ml. If an injury is severe and the OTV considers that euthanasia is in the best interest of the greyhound in the circumstances , it should be performed at the track. It is not considered appropriate to move the greyhound to a private veterinary clinic to perform euthanasia.

OTVs **shall not carry out euthanasia** on any greyhound that is not seriously injured.

Greyhounds with minor injuries (such as a split webbing) should be treated with adequate first aid and referred to the owner / trainer's usual veterinarian.

OTVs **shall not carry out euthanasia on any greyhound if so requested to by an owner or trainer on the basis that the dog is to be retired from racing** (for whatever reason the owner / trainer may have). It is the responsibility of the owner / trainer to pursue all reasonable avenues for re-homing of retired greyhounds and should not involve an OTV or a greyhound racing club.

Note that GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rule 106(3) and (4) requires the owner of a greyhound to notify GRNSW of euthanasia. The OTV should sign an appropriate form and give it to the trainer to forward to GRNSW in accordance with Rule 106.

## **14. POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS**

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The OTV may be directed by the on track steward to retain a greyhound for a post-mortem examination on a greyhound that has died during the race meeting. Such a procedure should be undertaken as soon as possible after the meeting at an appropriate veterinary surgery and at the direction of GRNSW Chief Steward and/or Chief Veterinarian Officer.

## **15. DISPOSAL OF THE BODY**

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The race club shall bear the cost and responsibility for disposal of bodies of greyhounds which have died or been euthanized during a race meeting. There is no responsibility on behalf of the owner / trainer to remove the body from the race track and arrange disposal. If the OTV has been contracted to dispose of bodies by the club, then the club should provide a suitable means to transport to move the body from the kennel area to the OTVs vehicle.

## **16. SWABBING PROCEDURE**

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Most tracks will have a staff member dedicated to collecting race day urine swabs. Despite this, however, there is commonly a need for the OTV to assist in swabs especially on race nights where many swabs are collected or when that staff member has a conflict of interest. The procedure for race day urine swabs is advised by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory. If the OTV is unfamiliar with this procedure, they should seek advice from the on track steward.

When collecting race day swabs the trainer must be present at all times when the dog is not locked in a swab bay. Similarly, the dog must be observed by a track staff member and whenever possible the staff member who will collect the swab from the end of the race until the swab is collected. Commonly the OTV will assist in this task. During this time no one but the handler must touch the greyhound. The greyhound is permitted to drink and walk around after the race as per usual.

## 17. RE-VETTING

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For any stand down penalty given, a re-assessment examination of the greyhound (a 'Re-Vet') may be performed on a day subsequent to the penalty being applied. The re-vet gives the owner/trainer an opportunity to have a "second opinion" on the penalty imposed previously. The 'Re-Vet' is performed at a racetrack during a race meeting or qualifying trial meeting by an OTV. This examination is performed with the steward and handler present and is usually undertaken at the completion of the kennelling procedure. It is performed in the examination room, not in the view of the general public. This is a thorough physical examination.

A copy of the original *Veterinarian Examination Details* form will be given to the re-examining OTV. The OTV should be confident that the particular injury has healed, and will in no way affect the greyhound's performance at its next race start.

The injury must be resolved at the time of the re-vetting. It is not to be presumed that the injury, though present, will be resolved prior to the greyhound's next scheduled race start.

The OTV informs the steward of their decision. If the decision is in favour of allowing racing to recommence, the OTV fills in the *Veterinarian Examination Details* form with all details filled in, stating "Injury Cleared". If the decision is in favour of a previous examination, no paper work is required.

## Appendix 1

### OTV attendance at race meetings

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event/Procedure</b>
Arrive at track 30 mins before commencement of kennelling	Make contact with on track steward
Pre-kennelling Examination	Observe and examine briefly every greyhound to be kennelled, including all greyhounds to race, all greyhounds in performance, steward or clearance trials and any greyhounds kennelled for trials after the race meeting.
Steward's Trials (~45 minutes before the first race)	Observe Steward's Trials looking for injury. Contact steward after the trials to determine if any animals need to be examined.
First (and every) race	Watch the race from a position allowing for good vision and easy access in case of emergency.
After each race	Contact the on track steward and determine if any animals need examination. Advise the on track steward of any greyhounds you consider need to be examined.
Examination	Examine the greyhound and provide any necessary treatment. Record all examinations in OzChase or on the <i>Veterinary Examination Details</i> form and inform the steward.
At the end of race meeting	Report examination details in accordance with the Steward Reporting Process..
Post-Race Trials	Observe all trials after the race meeting. If any dogs are injured, provide first aid. In the event of injury, record the examination and injury details as per above and communicate findings and stand downs.
At the earliest opportunity	For TAB meetings record all information from Veterinary Examination Details form into OzChase.

## Appendix 2

### Steward Reporting Process for injury, fatality and related euthanasia information

TAB tracks	Non-TAB tracks
<p><b>Information transfer and assurance process</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>On track veterinarian</b> records information in diary/injury forms/race book and reports these verbally throughout the meeting to the <b>on track steward</b>.</li> <li>2. <b>On track steward</b> records the incapacitation ('stand down') periods into OzChase and reports the results of the vet exams verbally (e.g. no injury, or nature of injury and stand down period) throughout the meeting to the <b>control room steward</b>.</li> <li>3. After the last race, the <b>on track veterinarian</b> confirms via phone conversation with the <b>control room steward</b> all dogs examined, the outcomes of examination and the incapacitation ('stand down') periods. These are checked for accuracy by the <b>control room steward</b> on both the Stewards Report and the stand down period on the greyhound's OzChase record that was entered during the meeting by the <b>on track steward</b>.</li> <li>4. The <b>control room steward</b> notes the time and date of this verification in the field on the last page of the form.</li> <li>5. The <b>on track veterinarian</b> enters the veterinary examination details into OzChase. (Step 6 is not reliant on this being completed).</li> <li>6. The <b>control room steward</b> can publish the Stewards Report on the website.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Information transfer and assurance process</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>On track veterinarian</b> records injuries and stand down periods in GRNSW veterinary injury reporting form and reports these verbally throughout the meeting to the <b>on track steward</b>.</li> <li>2. After the last race the <b>on track vet</b> and <b>on track steward</b> cross check their written records. Once verified as accurate, the <b>on track veterinarian</b> signs the <b>on track steward's</b> document as confirmation that the injury etc data is correct.</li> <li>3. The <b>on track steward</b> posts the Stewards Report to GRNSW with the swabs and the veterinary injury form is faxed to GRNSW. Once these are received, the information is manually entered into OzChase by GRNSW administrators in the Rhodes office.</li> </ol>