A PROTOCOL FOR THE VETERINARY SURGEON OFFICIATING AT GREYHOUND RACE MEETINGS

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1. INTRODUCTION
The purpose of this protocol is to provide a manual that will assist the Official Track Veterinarians (OTVs) to carry out their duties at greyhound racing meetings. It aims to make the duties of the OTV of a uniform and consistently high standard.

2. THE ROLE OF THE OTV
The OTV is considered to be a sub-contractor of the Greyhound Racing Clubs, and the various State Controlling Authorities.
The OTV is employed to:

I. Examine competing greyhounds before they are kennelled to ensure they are free of injury and illness, and suitable to race.

II. Examine each greyhound again prior to the race start to ensure it has not been hurt or become ill from the time of entry into the kennels until the scheduled race start time.

III. Examine and render first aid to any greyhound that may have been injured during a race.

IV. To examine at the request of the Stewards any greyhounds that may have run poorly, failed to chase, fought, or just not run according to its previous form. The Stewards should inform the OTV as to the reason for the examination.

V. Conduct the collection of blood, urine, or saliva samples for drug testing.

VI. In cases of extreme injury carry out euthanasia.

VII. Examine such greyhounds as determined by the Steward-in-Charge for purpose of re-vetting.

VIII. Conduct or organise post mortem examinations as requested by the stewards.

The OTV has been retained to act as an independent adviser at the racetrack. It is the Stipendiary Stewards who conduct and run the entire proceedings at the race track. Therefore, the Stewards consider the OTVs advice and make the appropriate decisions. They have total authority to change, ignore or agree with any decisions that an OTV makes, or any scratching that an OTV recommends.
3. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OTV
The OTVs responsibility at the race meeting is the welfare of the greyhound in consideration of:
I. Its general health.
II. The possibility that running will make a particular condition or injury worse.
III. The transmission of any contagious or infectious disease to other greyhounds being kennelled with it.

The responsibility of looking after the betting public and the individual owner/trainer belongs to the Stewards and not the OTV. The OTV is present to act on behalf of the greyhound, and ensure that no cruelty occurs. The OTVs loyalty and responsibility 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 (see below), 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 Stewards. If in any doubt regarding any aspects of the required official duties or any procedure, the OTV should seek advice from the Steward-in-Charge of the race meeting, or from the Chief Steward.

Veterinary Surgeons should be aware that common law over-rides the Rules of Racing. This should be remembered when euthanasia is considered to be necessary. The written permission of the owner or trainer/agent must be obtained before euthanasia.

3.1 OTV DISPENSING MEDICATIONS.
In circumstances of bona fide clients OTVs may dispense medication if pre-arranged with the clients and with the permission of the Stewards. This process must occur-
• Completely outside the kennel block e.g. in the car park.
• Once the client has completely finished all racing commitments for the meeting
• Such medications should only be dispensed in a sealed container or bag.
• OTVs should wash their hands if any of the medications are handled.
• No private Veterinary procedures or consultations 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.
• There must be no risk of exposing the racing dogs to unvaccinated dogs.

4. REQUIREMENTS OF THE OTV
The Veterinary Surgeons are required to provide:
1. Their own transport to the race track.

2. Appropriate drugs and equipment to render first aid to injured greyhounds. The OTVs must ensure that their responsibilities under the relevant State Poisons and Controlled Substances Acts are met with respect to storage of drugs at a race track.

3. Equipment for euthanasia including euthanasia solution.

4. Registration with the various state Veterinary Practitioners Boards.

5. Information regarding the nearest Veterinary emergency centre or after hours Veterinary service. This information should be available in a hand-out form and be clearly on display in the kennel area.

4.1 Accident and Professional Indemnity Insurance.
The OTV must be covered by Accident and professional Liability insurance.

4.2 Drugs and Supplies
The following list of drugs and supplies are considered the absolute minimum that must be available at the track to provide adequate first aid at the track. It is not considered appropriate that greyhounds be taken to a private Veterinary Clinic for administration of first aid.

The cost of these drugs and disposable supplies is to be borne by the club. (see Section 34)
The OTV fee is considered to cover the cost of any Veterinary procedure carried out. All instruments are to be provided by the OTV.

1. Pharmaceutical drugs:
   - Euthanasia solution
   - Sedatives, e.g. Xylazine, or Acepromazine
   - Injectable antibiotics. There is no requirement for antibiotic tablets
   - Local and General anaesthetics
   - Pain relief eg. Carprofen or Meloxicam
   - Intravenous fluids, intravenous catheters and giving sets

The above mentioned pharmaceutical drugs must be stored in compliance with the respective State's legislative requirements for the storage of drugs and poisons.

2. Veterinary Supplies:
   - Stretch non-adhesive bandages (eg Vet Wrap) bandage 50, 75, and 100 mm
   - Elastic adhesive tape (Elastoplast is the preferred product) 2.5, 5.0, and 7.5 cm
   - Antiseptic solution
   - Cotton wool, gauze and conforming bandages
- Splint material sufficient to stabilise fractures distal to the humerus or femur
- Materials to apply a Robert-Jones bandage
- Syringes (20ml, 10ml, 5ml, and 2ml)
- Needles (21g, 23g and 25g)
- Sterile swab sticks to detect oestrus.
- EDTA blood tubes
- Plain blood tubes
- Sterile urine jars
- Pathology jars with Formalin for histopathology samples.
- Resuscitation equipment (if general anaesthetics are to be given).

3. Instruments:
- Basic surgery kit, including scissors, haemostats, needle drivers, tissue forceps and swabs.
- Bowls for disinfectant or saline.
- Suture material (absorbable and non-absorbable either swaged on or separate with needles).
- Stethoscope and otoscope
- Thermometer
- Nail clippers
- Body bags

It is desirable to obtain permission from the owner/trainer/handler before procedures are performed.

5. REQUIREMENTS OF THE RACING CLUB

1. A separate Veterinary Surgeon’s room within the kennelling complex with hot and cold running water, a sink, ample bench space, an examination table, seats and paper towels.

2. Ice packs.

3. Lockable cupboards for drug storage.

4. Provision of refrigerated storage facilities, for medications and autopsy specimens.

5. Post mortem examination facilities. Stainless steel bench as part of the sink.

6. A current copy of the Greyhounds Australasia or State’s Rule Book, including updated amendments.

7. Basic equipment required for the pre-race preparation of greyhounds including petroleum jelly, talcum powder and elastic adhesive tape. The clubs should liaise
with the OTV as to what tape is required as the OTV will have both adhesive and non-adhesive tape available in their supplies.

8. Facilities for transportation of severely injured or dead greyhounds, including a large stretcher or other appropriate transport such as “golf buggy”.

9. Provision of screens to be used should an injured greyhound require euthanasia whilst in view of the general public.

10. Provision for the storage and disposal of dead greyhounds. Note the disposal of the bodies is the responsibility of the Race Clubs and not the OTV.

11. A sign with the names and contact details of the nearest after hours Veterinary service or emergency clinic for display in the kennel area.

12. 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.


14. A copy of the scratchings and reserves for the meeting.

6. ARRIVAL AT THE TRACK
The Veterinary Surgeon is expected to arrive at the racetrack prior to the beginning of kennelling time. Stewards and the particular Race Club shall determine the exact time. This will be at least 90 minutes prior to the 1st race.

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

7. CONSIDERATION OF HOT WEATHER POLICY
In the event of extremely hot weather the OTV should discuss this issue with the stewards. The OTV must bear in mind the welfare of the greyhounds. Greyhounds Australasia and the individual State Controlling Authorities have formal policies on hot weather.

8. EXAMINATION OF GREYHOUNDS ON ARRIVAL AT THE TRACK
This should be as thorough as possible in the limited time available. On most occasions, approximately 80 – 90 greyhounds must be examined in about 45 minutes, allowing less that one minute to examine each greyhound.
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 pre-kennelling examination is aimed primarily at detecting greyhounds with obvious serious injuries, in poor physical condition, with contagious conditions, or in oestrus. The OTV should alert stewards as to greyhounds in poor condition, or greyhounds with fleas or other parasites, or if it is considered inappropriate to run the greyhound from an animal welfare point of view. The steward will then consider scratching or otherwise.

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

- Eyes – for Chronic Superficial Keratitis (Pannus), Conjunctivitis, Perilimbal Hyperaemia, constricted or dilated pupils.

- Throat – for upper respiratory tract infections. Check tracheal irritation and examine the pharynx of any dog heard coughing.

- 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.

- The presence of liniments. Greyhounds are not permitted to have liniment applied to the skin before entering the kennels. The OTV should inform the Steward-in-Charge of any greyhounds presented in this manner.

- The musculo-skeletal System of each greyhound, checking for any obvious lameness. The examination should include as a minimum:
  - Palpation of the main shoulder muscles. Ensure both long heads of triceps are not injured
  - Flexion and palpation of the wrists and palpation of the metacarpal bones.
  - Palpation of the main muscles of the hind limb. Ensure the origin and insertion of both gracilis muscles are not injured.
  - Examination for track leg problems (swelling on the medial tibia).
  - Examination of the toes, pads, nails and webbing of all feet.

- 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 Stewards.

If the OTV considers that a greyhound presented should not be permitted to race, then the Steward, who has been observing pre-kennel examinations, should be consulted. The Steward may request the handler, greyhound and Veterinary Surgeon to proceed to the separate Veterinary Surgeon’s room. The Veterinary Surgeon will advise the Steward
of the problem or observation, and the Steward will take appropriate action, either by scratching the greyhound or permitting it to be kennelled.

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 and subjective 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 OTVs duty is firstly to the welfare of the greyhound and to suggest a recommended course of action.

If the Steward concurs with the OTVs recommendation to scratch a greyhound, the OTV then completes a “Veterinary Surgeon or Steward’s Report of Injury” Form. (Appendix 3.)

9. PRE-RACE SCRATCHINGS

When any greyhound is scratched pre-race, a ‘Veterinary Surgeon’s or Steward’s Report of Injury’ Form is to be completed. See Appendix 3.

The Stewards supply a book containing these forms in triplicate to the officiating Veterinary Surgeon. The completed form should show:

- Date of meeting.
- Official name of greyhound racing track.
- The greyhound’s racing name.
- Type of injury or reason for ineligibility to race. (The Stewards do not expect or require an exact diagnosis but instructive precise descriptions are to be encouraged., e.g. bitch in season; cut pad left hind; split webbing right fore.)
- OTVs name and signature.

Any greyhound scratched at the time of kennelling is classified as a ‘late scratching’ and is given a stand-down penalty unless advised to the contrary by the Steward-in-Charge.

10. EXAMINATION OF GREYHOUNDS PRIOR TO THE RACE

This examination is to ensure that the greyhound has not sustained any injuries or illness in the kennels, and that no bitches have come into season.

The eight greyhounds due to compete in the forthcoming race are re-presented on the platform table for veterinary examination in the presence of the handler and the Kennel Steward.

OTV should check off each dog against a list when they are examined to ensure all dogs are examined.

The OTV should examine the feet and pads for any recent injury, e.g. lacerations that may have been caused by the kennel structure. Some greyhounds paw continuously at the kennel door and grill and do not settle throughout their kennelled time. These
greyhounds may damage a toenail or sustain foot, pad or even facial lacerations. Other greyhounds may be hyper-excited in the kennel environment and become so restless that they lose weight in a short time due to hyperventilation and hypersalivation. Other greyhounds may wag their tails furiously, causing them to bleed.

If a greyhound shows obvious and significant weight loss, an obvious lameness following kennelling, or a serious injury has been sustained in the kennels, the OTV should notify the Steward-in-Charge immediately. If the Steward deems a scratching necessary, the OTV will be required to fill out in a “Veterinary Surgeon’s or Steward’s Report of Injury” form.

11. TAPING

The OTV also assists with any taping of greyhounds after this inspection. 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 Veterinary Surgeon.

Common taping 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.

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.

a) 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.

b) 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.

c) 3mm tape (cut from 2.5cm) around the nail/skin junction to minimise sand irritation of the nail bed.

d) 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.

e) 2cm tape above and below the accessory carpal bone.

f) Miscellaneous tapings according to the wishes of the trainers/handlers.
g) Rubber bands may be applied to support toe ligaments. Greyhounds presented with bandages on their tail tips should have the bandage removed and the wound underneath examined to determine the extent of the wound and the type of bandage material used, and a new bandage reapplied.

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. The 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.

12. THE RACE
The OTV should observe each race from one of the Steward’s vantage positions, or on closed circuit TV, whenever it is appropriate to do so. This is important to gain information regarding injury and greyhounds deemed to “fail to chase”.

13. EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT OF GREYHOUNDS AFTER RACING
Any greyhounds injured during a race is provided with first aid treatment. The 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. Advice re the nearest Veterinary emergency centre or after hours Veterinary service should be provided to the trainer in cases where on-going treatment is needed.

14. POST RACE INJURY REPORTS
When any greyhound is examined at the direction of the Stewards post race, a ‘Veterinary Surgeon’s or Steward’s Report of Injury’ Form is to be completed. This is similar to pre-race scratching. Any medication administered post race by the OTV should be recorded on the ‘Veterinary Surgeon’s Report of Treatment’ form.

15. TREATMENT OF WOUNDS
The owner or trainer has the right to ask for minor surgical procedures to be performed at the track. The Club and the OTV are obliged to provide this service. 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.
- Commencing any procedure that may potentially take a long time may disrupt the normal work flow of a race meeting.
- A general anaesthetic should not be undertaken. (See section 18)
- As there may be limited veterinary services available after 8.00 PM. 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.
- Most areas have Veterinary Clinics with after-hours services and the metropolitan areas have 24 hour emergency clinics.

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. Supportively bandages are to be applied where needed.

If the track OTV is unsure of the extent of injury, then it is preferable to err on the conservative side, 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 patient has been discharged from the track with the appropriate first aid treatment then 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 used is borne by the club, (see section 34).

The OTV should arrange for a sign with the names and contract 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.

16. TREATMENT OF 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 back to the trainer’s usual Veterinarian.
17. TREATMENT OF 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.

18. 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.

19. OTVs REPORT FOR TREATMENT ADMINISTERED AT THE TRACK
This explanatory form is written for the owner / trainer’s “usual” Veterinarian. It should include a short case history and list all medication and treatment given. See Appendix 2

This certificate is filled out in triplicate. The original remains in the book, and two copies are given to the handler in order that –

i) The handler receives one, and has been instructed on the exact nature of the injury, and when the next visit to the “usual” Veterinarian is required.

ii) The “usual” Veterinarian has been provided with all pertinent information regarding the emergency treatment given to the greyhound.

20. SERIOUS INJURY REQUIRING ON-GOING VETERINARY CARE.
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.

21. EUTHANASIA AS A RESULT OF SERIOUS INJURY.
Euthanasia may be performed at the track by the OTV, with the permission of the owner, trainer or handler. Euthanasia Permission 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 2 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 the private Veterinary Surgeon’s 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 effected by intravenous injection of pentobarbitone 300 mg / ml. If an injury is so severe that euthanasia is required, it should be performed at the track. It is not considered appropriate to move the greyhound to a private Veterinary Clinic to perform euthanasia.

Important
Common law may over-ride the Rules of Racing when euthanasia is considered to be necessary.
The OTV should obtain the permission of the owner or trainer first wherever possible to guard against a professional negligence claim.

Under various State laws, the Greyhound Australasia Rules of Racing may not indemnify a Veterinary Surgeon from a charge of professional misconduct. The implications for OTVs are obvious. OTVs should be familiar their own State’s laws to ensure their own legal protection under these circumstances.

22. EUTHANASIA AS A RESULT OF NON-SERIOUS INJURY OR AT OWNER’S REQUEST
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 what ever reason the owner / trainer may have). This is the responsibility of the owner / trainer and should not involve an OTV or a Greyhound Racing Club.

23. EUTHANASIA CONSENT FORMS
See Appendix 1.
Note that GA rules state that all euthanasias must be notified to the State Controlling Authority. The OTV should sign an appropriate form and give it to the trainer to forward to the State Controlling Authority.

24. POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS
The OTV may be directed by the Steward to perform a post-mortem examination on a greyhound that has died during the race meeting.
Such a procedure should be undertaken as soon as possible.
Caution must be exercised so as not to disrupt the normal flow of the race meeting.
The stewards must clearly define the reason for the post mortem examination.

Post mortem examinations for injuries and trauma should be carried out at the race meeting unless mutually agreed that it be carried out at an alternative time and venue.

Urine and stomach contents may be collected at the time of the post-mortem. A post-mortem examination carried out on the track may require the taking of other relevant samples for histopathology and toxicology.

In cases of suspected foul play, drug administration or other more serious matters which may involve a breach of the rules of racing, samples of urine should be collected according to the drug sampling procedure. Any other samples which may be deemed necessary such as saliva or blood should be collected according to drug sampling procedures. The body should be placed in a body bag and the bag sealed in the presence of the owner, OTV and steward, according to drug sampling procedures. The stewards will then arrange for transport and delivery of the body to the appropriate laboratory. This is to ensure security of the body in transit to the laboratories. The OTV must provide the stewards with a list of suitable laboratories and/or Qualified Veterinary Pathologist who will carry out the post mortem examination and any further pathology and toxicology testing required. The cost of the Autopsy shall be borne by the State Controlling Authority.

25. DISPOSAL OF THE BODY
The Race club shall bear the cost and responsibility for disposal of bodies of greyhounds which have died or been euthanised 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.

26. EXAMINATION OF GREYHOUNDS REQUESTED BY STEWARDS
The 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 greyhound is examined for any obvious lameness and injury. The major muscles are to be palpated.
All joints are examined for swelling, pain and range of movement assessments. Metacarpals, metatarsals, toes, pads and webbings are examined for injury.

OTVs can obtain more detailed notes on examination procedure from the Refresher Course on Greyhounds by the Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science (Proceeding No. 65, p.601), or from the Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association OTV Training Kit.

27. STAND-DOWN PENALTIES

Although there are problems on setting standard 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 Stewards set the penalties after taking advice from the OTV.

The following guide can be used.

**2 – 3 months** – Severe bone fractures

**30-day Penalties** – Lesser bone fractures, stress fractures, ligament ruptures, (Grade 3 sprains) complete and severe muscle tears, badly injured carpal, tarsal, metatarsal-phalangeal or metacarpal-phalangeal joints.

**1-21 day Penalties** – stripped toenails, cut or torn pads, Grade 2 muscle injuries, skin lacerations requiring suturing, carpal or tarsal joint pain, Grade 1 and 2 ligament sprains.

**0-7 day Penalty** – Grade 1 muscle injuries, minor skin wounds, spikes, grazes.

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 OTV is required to complete the “Veterinary Surgeon’s or Steward’s Report of Injury” Form in triplicate.

Ensure all details are filled out, including: Date, Racing Club, greyhound’s racing name, description of injury and the number of days that the greyhound will stand down and not be permitted to race. The certificate must be signed by the OTV.

The description of the injury should be concise and instructive, e.g.
- Left hamstring (Semimembranosus and Semitendinosus)
- Left back muscle (Gracilis)
- Right Wrist (Carpus)
Further refinement of the description of the extent of the injury is encouraged. Following the examination the owner/handler is requested to kennel the dog and report to the Steward’s office. After the form has been completed, two copies are handed to the observing Steward who, in turn, will take the forms to the panel of Stewards presiding over the meeting, and the panel will determine the course of action to be taken. The original report remains in the book kept at the Club. The Stewards are not obliged to follow the OTVs directive. They may make the stand-down period shorter or longer. They may choose to ignore an injury penalty, and suspend the greyhound for other reasons such as failing to chase, or fighting.

The OTV should not feel professionally compromised by this. The duty of the track OTV is to provide assistance, care and advice for the welfare of the greyhound. The duty of the Stewards is to consider the welfare of the owner/trainer, and the welfare of the betting public. Therefore, the final outcome for the greyhound can be affected by many factors of which the OTV may not be aware.

### 28. GUIDE TO STAND DOWN TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injury</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1 muscle injuries</td>
<td>5-7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2 muscle injuries</td>
<td>2-3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3 muscle injuries</td>
<td>3-6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gracilis tear</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triceps tear</td>
<td>4-6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tensor Fascia Lata tear</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpal and tarsal sprain</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexor Carpi Ulnaris sprain</td>
<td>2-4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrocnemius tendon sprain</td>
<td>2-4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toe collateral ligament sprain</td>
<td>1-3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone Fractures</td>
<td>6 weeks plus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 29. DRUG SAMPLING

Note: The drug sampling protocols in each State may differ.

It is recommended that the OTV consult with the Chairman of Stewards or the Chief Steward of the meeting prior to the meeting to ascertain what is the correct protocol.

The following protocols are those in place in Victoria at 1/7/2006.

1. OVERVIEW OF THE PROCEDURES
• The Stewards will determine which greyhounds are to be sampled.
• The witness/handler of the greyhound will be given the opportunity to view the entire procedure.
• If, at any point, the sampling procedure is either contaminated or suspected of being contaminated, the sampling shall be aborted and the greyhound may be locked away again and the procedure will be recommenced.
• The labels used on the bottles are sealed in the security bag and only have one sample number written/printed on them. The greyhound’s name, the track where it raced and the names of the owner(s) or trainer do not appear amongst this information. The analyst, therefore, is only aware of the sampling numbers.

2. SECURITY MEASURES AFTER AN EVENT
• As soon as practicable after an event a Steward will inform a handler if samples are to be taken from a greyhound.
• If this is the case, the Steward will accompany the handler and greyhound during all the post-race procedures. The Steward will keep the greyhound in full view at all times and minimise any handling and/or interference of the greyhound by persons other than the handler.
• It is advisable that the greyhound have a drink of water before being locked away. This drink is to be taken at the regular wash bay using the regular hose and tap. No other drink, medications, supplements or edibles can be given to the greyhound at this point, nor can water be given from an introduced container.
• The greyhound will either be locked away in its own race kennel or one specifically allocated for that purpose.
• Before locking the greyhound in a kennel, the Steward will check the greyhound’s bedding and the kennel itself for any abnormalities and invite the handler to check same.
• The greyhound will then be locked in the kennel using a numbered security seal, a record of this seal number will be made. The kennel bay will then be locked with a Steward’s padlock.
• If for any reason a person needs to enter the kennel bay (ie. to collect a greyhound to go home) that person will be accompanied by a Steward. A Steward will witness the retrieval of the greyhound and re-lock the kennel bay.

• Under normal circumstances, the greyhound to be sampled will be locked away for at least the next two races or for at least 30 minutes if it competed in the last event.

3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONTROL SAMPLE
• The Steward and/ or authorised person shall ensure that all sampling procedures are to take place in a clean and tidy area.
• The security bag of three sample bottles will be opened in full view of the handler.
The Vet or authorised person will rinse the collection dish in warm water. The Vet or authorised person will then use the control solution (included in one of the sample bottles) to set up a control sample. This is done by rinsing the collection dish and the two empty bottles (including their lids) with the control solution provided, which is then returned to its original bottle. This bottle is then sealed using one (1) of the numbered seals included in the sample pack.

The purpose of the control sample is to ensure that all of the containers and surfaces with which the greyhound’s urine will come into contact with are uncontaminated. If a prohibited substance is detected in the original sample, the analyst will also test the control sample for the substance. Its absence in the control will indicate that the substance was present in the greyhound’s urine.

4. RETRIEVAL OF THE GREYHOUND

- A Steward will accompany the handler when it is time to retrieve the greyhound from the secured kennel.
- In full view of the handler, the Steward will break the security seal and unlock the kennel. The handler will be given an opportunity to check the seal number.
- The Steward will check the greyhound’s earbrands.
- The greyhound will then be taken to an area for the purpose of collecting a urine sample, accompanied by both the handler and the Steward.

5. THE COLLECTION OF THE SAMPLE

- Before the sample is taken, the Steward will place all three bottles back in the security bag. The security bag will remain in view of the handler while the sample is being taken.
- The Vet (or approved person) taking the sample will collect the urine in the collection dish taking care it doesn’t come into contact with any foreign matter.
- Once the urine has been collected in the dish, it will be taken back to the Vet’s room and placed in one of the empty containers. If sufficient urine has been collected, a reserve sample will also be placed in the remaining bottle. It is important that the Vet walks in front of the handler and Steward when returning to the Vet’s room after the collection. This is to ensure that the handler and Steward can keep the sample under observation.

- The original sample will be sealed with a second seal in the sample pack. The reserve bottle (whether it contains a sample or not) will be sealed with the third seal contained in the sample pack. All three (3) sample bottles are sealed with the same sample number and bar-code.
- Once sealed, all three bottles are placed in the carrying security bag (numbered the same as the sample bottles), by placing all three bottles the same way – that is all lids facing the same way to avoid possible leakage.
- If deemed necessary, the Steward In Charge of the meeting may direct that a sample of blood be taken from a greyhound. The sealed blood sample kit will contain two Lithium Heparin Vacutainer tubes, two bottles and two syringes. When blood is
drawn from the greyhound it will be placed in the tubes and sealed in the sample bottles, as per a urine sample.

- Ensure that the swabs used to cleanse the site of the Venipuncture are taken from a container which is sealed against contamination.

6. WITNESSING THE DOCUMENTATION

- After the security bag has been sealed, it is imperative that all parties check the sample and seal numbers. The handler and Vet will be asked to read and sign the white sample identity card in the sample pack. (Once signed, this card will be retained by the Steward and forwarded to the Office for its records).
- The handler will retain the pink sample identity card from the sample pack. This card includes relevant information such as the sample number, the track where the sample was taken and the date and time where the sample was taken.
- The yellow sample identity card will remain with the Steward in charge.
- The Steward will endeavour to return the sealed sample container to the Steward’s Room as soon as is practicable, where it will be secured in a locked cabinet.

30. TRIALING AFTER THE LAST RACE

The OTV must stay for any satisfactory trials that are being held after the last race. These trials are still under the control of the stewards.

Many racing tracks allow time trials after the conclusion of the last race. These usually last 15-20 minutes. The Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association recommends that the OTV should not leave the track until all trials have concluded in case emergency first aid or euthanasia is required. However there is no obligation on the part of the OTV to stay. The OTV is not obliged to help in taping or any other procedures.

31. END OF MEETING

After the last race or satisfactory trial, contact should be made with the Steward-in-Charge to ensure that nothing further is required of the Veterinary Surgeon, and any necessary keys should be returned to the Secretary of the Club or other appropriate person.

It may be appropriate at this point for the Veterinary Surgeon to comment on particular conditions of the meeting which may adversely affected the greyhounds during that meeting such as track surface or kennel environment.

32. RE-VETTING

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’ 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 Veterinary Surgeon’s room, not in the view of the general public.

This is a thorough physical examination.

A copy of the original Veterinary Surgeon’s or Steward’s Report of Injury 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 re-commence, the OTV fills in the “Veterinary Surgeon’s or Steward’s Report of Injury” form with all details filled in, stating “Injury Cleared”.

If the decision is in favour of a previous Injury Report, no paperwork is required.

The re-vet gives the owner/trainer an opportunity to have a “second opinion” on the penalty imposed previously. A private practitioner may not re-vet the greyhound in the course of their day to day practice.

33. PROFESSIONAL FEES
The fee payable to OTVs for professional attendance at race meetings is fixed by consultation between the Veterinary Surgeon, the Racing Clubs and the relevant State Controlling Authorities.

The AGVA, the relevant State Controlling Authorities and the clubs will negotiate a recommended minimum fee. Such a fee will rise annually with CPI.

The same fee should be paid for attending race trials.

A fee for the cost of all medication and consumables used at the track shall be billed to the club on a monthly basis. It is recommended that the cost of the medication and consumables shall be the wholesale cost including GST plus a 30% mark up.

The Racing Clubs and the State Controlling Authorities expect to receive competent Veterinary service for these fees.

• They are obtaining professional advice and attendance from individuals who are the only persons qualified to give it.
• A Veterinary Surgeon is the only person qualified to assess and attend to physical injury that may occur at a race meeting.
• A Veterinary Surgeon understands the technique required to set up a controlled sample collection for drug testing.
• The Veterinary Surgeon must set aside at least five hours in order to attend a meeting.
• The cost of travel to the race meeting is borne by the Veterinary Surgeon.
• Professional indemnity is borne by the Veterinary Surgeon in most instances.
• Accident Insurance – both travelling to the track and at the track is borne by the Veterinary Surgeon in most instances.
• Usually the professional service is required in the evenings, Saturday, or during the week on Public Holidays.
• The position demands decisions to be made that are of financial significance in terms of the value of the greyhounds racing and the impact on betting.

34. ACCREDITATION PROCESS

34.1 Individual OTV

1. A trainee OTV shall attend a training course and / or read and studies the GA / AGVA “OTV Training Kit”

2. The trainee OTV then attends 2 race meetings and is instructed through the first meeting by a Senior OTV. At the second meeting the trainee shall conduct the meeting under the supervision of the Senior OTV.

3. The senior OTV then signs off in triplicate that the trainee OTV has carried out all duties and procedures to a satisfactory level. The Senior OTV keeps a copy of this form. A second copy is given to the stewards to be retained by the State Controlling Authority, and a third copy is kept by the trainee OTV.

4. The Trainee OTV then signs an agreement in triplicate an agreement that they have read and understood all the rules, regulations and all other OTV requirements. This is counter signed by the Senior OTV. The Senior OTV keeps a copy of this form, a second copy is given to the stewards to be retained by the State Controlling Authority, and a third copy is kept by the trainee OTV.

5. The OTV then conducts a meeting at which the final assessment is made and if satisfactory, the Assessment form is signed in duplicate by the stewards. One copy is retained by the Stewards and the other copy retained by the OTV.

The Stewards will assess the OTV as per the check list in appendix 4.

6. The State Controlling Authority will record and maintain a list of accredited OTVs.

7. The stewards will carry out an annual accreditation. Such accreditation will be a review of OTV procedures as per the AGVA check list.

8. This assessment will be carried out during a race meeting.
9. Such annual accreditation will ensure standards are being maintained.

10. Should there be a failure to re-accredit an OTV then the OTV will be required to repeat the initial training under the guidance of a senior OTV.

34.2 Practices
Where one or more Veterinarians from a practice are involved with OTV work at a race track, each of these Veterinarians should be accredited.
In situations where Veterinarians who work in the practice that provides the OTV service and who have not been accredited are called upon to carry out OTV duties then.
1. The senior Accredited OTV must undertake training with this Veterinarian to ensure they have read and understood all the rules, regulations and all other OTV requirements.
2. The senior accredited Veterinarian must arrange for an accredited Veterinarian to be on call to provide advice to this Veterinarian should any problems arise during a meeting.
3. The Senior Accredited Veterinarian shall assume full responsibility for the actions and work of this Veterinarian.

35. SENIOR OTV
A senior OTV is defined as an OTV who has either
- More than 4 years continuous OTV experience on either a metropolitan or a country race track, or -
- Officiated at more than 75 race meetings on either a metropolitan or a country race track.

36. GRANDFATHER CLAUSE
All OTVs who have been officiating for 4 or more years shall not be required to undergo training. However they shall be subject to the annual accreditation process.
Appendix 1

Consent to perform Veterinary Surgery or Euthanasia on a Greyhound

CONSENT TO PERFORM VETERINARY SURGERY OR EUTHANASIA ON A GREYHOUND

I. __________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________________

Being a person over the age of eighteen years, hereby authorise

___________________________________________________________
A registered Veterinary Surgeon, to:

* Administer to the Greyhound described below a suitable anaesthetic and to perform surgery or other treatment as required,
* Perform euthanasia on the said Greyhound,

Racing Name: __________________________ Ear Brands: __________________
Colour: ___________________________________________ Sex: ____________

And I declare that:
* I am the owner of the above described animal
* The owner of the above mentioned animal is_________________________
of_____________________________________________________,
* I am authorised by the said owner to present the Greyhound for treatment as detailed above or
* I am authorised by the said owner to present the Greyhound for euthanasia.
* In consideration of the said Veterinary Surgeon providing the requisite treatment, I agree to indemnify him/her, his/her servants or agents, from any claim, proceedings loss or liability which may incur as a result of any error or inaccuracy whether intended or otherwise in my declaration.

Owner / representative:________________________________________ (signed).
Name:_____________________________________________________(Please print).
Date:_________________________
Witness:____________________________________________________(signed).
Name:_____________________________________________________(Please print).

* Cross out which does not apply.

Euthanised by:_________________________________________ Veterinary Surgeon (Please print)
Signed:_________________________________________ Date:_________________________
### Appendix 2

**Veterinary Surgeon’s Treatment Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VETERINARY SURGEON’S TREATMENT REPORT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greyhound’s Racing Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear Brands:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The greyhound referred to above received the drugs / treatment at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(race track) on <em><strong>/</strong></em>/___ (date)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs administered:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment instituted:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructions to owner/trainer:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The greyhound should be presented to your usual Veterinarian tomorrow or within ____________ days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(signed) <em><strong>/</strong></em>/___ (date).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarian’s Name (Print)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 3.

Veterinary Surgeon’s or Steward’s Report of Injury form

VETERINARY SURGEON’S OR STEWARD’S REPORT OF INJURY

DATE:______________  MEETING HELD AT: __________________________

REPORT OF EXAMINATION BEFORE / AFTER RACING OF THE GREYHOUND

NAME: _________________________ EAR TATTOO _______________________

INJURIES FOUND :___________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

THE GREYHOUND WILL STAND DOWN FROM RACING FOR A PERIOD OF
____________________ DAYS FROM THE ABOVE DATE.

Note: The Greyhound shall not compete in any event or satisfactory trial during this period of stand down.

SIGNED: ____________________________________________________________

NAME: _____________________________________________________________

Veterinary Surgeon / Steward:
## Appendix 4

### Accreditation process forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENIOR OTV ACCREDITATION FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I ----------------------------- A senior accredited OTV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certify that Trainee OTV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. --------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address ----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has undertaken 2 training sessions with me, and has carried out all required duties and procedures to a satisfactory level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed ----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date -------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**TRAINEE OTV ACCREDITATION FORM**

I ----------------------------------------------- Trainee OTV

Address -----------------------------------------------

---------------------------------------------------------------------------

Confirm that I have read and understand all rules, regulations and requirements of an
OTV.

Signed -----------------------------------------------

Date -----------------------------------------------

Witness Senior OTV Name -----------------------------------------------

Senior OTV signature -----------------------------------------------

Date -----------------------------------------------

**OTV ACCREDITATION FORM**

OTV Name -----------------------------------------------

Has undergone training with a Senior OTV and has conducted a meeting to the
satisfaction of a supervising Stipendiary Steward and is suitable for OTV accreditation.

Signed ----------------------------------------------- Steward

Name ----------------------------------------------- Date -----------------------------------------------
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of OTV</th>
<th>Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Was the OTV on time for the start of kenneling.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Did the OTV conduct themselves in a professional manner.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Did the OTV conduct the meeting to a satisfactory level.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Did the OTV carry out pre and post race examinations to a satisfactory level.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Did the OTV carry out sample taking for drug analysis to a satisfactory level.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Did the OTV carry out or supervise bandaging / taping procedures to a satisfactory level.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Did the OTV breach any rules regarding the dispensing of medications.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Did the OTV have sufficient veterinary supplies and medications to carry out their role to a satisfactory level.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Was the OTV supportive of the stewards in their work.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Did the OTV complete all required paper work to a satisfactory level.**
  - Yes / No
  - Comment

- **Accreditation Recommended**
  - Yes / No

- **Signed**
  - Stipendiary Steward

- **Date**
OTV PRACTICE AGREEMENT FORM

I ..............................................................................................................................

A senior GRV accredited OTV, working as part of the

(Practice Name) ........................................................................................................

Agree that in the event that my practice is not able to supply a GRV accredited OTV for
any race meeting, I will supply a non accredited Veterinarian who will attend the
meeting. Such a Veterinarian will-

1. Be fully briefed on the required procedures

2. Have direct telephone contact with an accredited OTV so as to provide any required
   support.

I agree to accept full responsibility for the actions of this Veterinarian during the meeting

Signed ...........................................................................................................................

Date .........................................................................................................................