

5th meeting of the GBGB Veterinary Sub-committee – 7th October 2010
Summary Notes

Matters Arising

(i) Cramp Reporting Form

- The sub-committee reviewed the cramp reporting form/questionnaire designed by Richard Payne (discussed at the last VSC meeting) and an accompanying covering letter. The questionnaire and letter were approved by the VSC subject to a few minor amendments and will now be reviewed by the Welfare Standing Committee. The sub-committee agreed on the importance of fully explaining the questionnaire and its aims to all track staff, track vets and trainers to ensure full co operation and consistency of data when it is rolled out.

(ii) PowerPoint presentation featuring Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) advice on unlicensed medication

- It was confirmed that information from the VMD on unlicensed medication will be presented by the VSC Chairman as part of the 'Latest Developments and help for vets' talk on day two of the Track Vets Training Day. It will also be presented to the Stipendiary Stewards at their next meeting.

(iii) Disposal of unlicensed and out of date medication

- The sub-committee discussed at length possible methods to facilitate trainers disposing of unlicensed or out of date medication and whether this could be done at the track, with the track management's assistance via a specialist waste disposal company.
- All track vets will be asked for feedback on this subject and on ways in which they and their tracks manage this issue at the panel discussion on day two of the GBGB Veterinary Conference.
- GBGB Rules of Racing 110B (i), (m) and 110B (ii) relating to the provision of veterinary equipment and methods of disposing of sharps and surgical waste (and potentially hazardous waste/ unlicensed medication) were examined. The Senior Stipendiary Steward has been asked to discuss these rules at the next Rules Review Committee meeting to request clarification on who is responsible for the funding and for the overall responsibility of the disposal of sharps and waste (including unlicensed medication).

(iv) Information on medication use pre racing and GBGB Rule 217

- The Doping and Medication Advisory Panel (DMAP) have requested that the VSC make a recommendation on the development of a tiered 'first aid box' system, which would permit certain medications at different times (e.g. pre race, post race etc). It was agreed that it would be useful to have input on this subject from as large a number of

track vets as possible, and to therefore invite feedback at the panel discussion on the second day of the Veterinary Conference (Friday 19th November).

Training

(i) GBGB Veterinary Conference : Thursday 18th – Friday 19th November

- The organisation of the GBGB Veterinary Conference on 18th and 19th November at Monmore Stadium is progressing well but bookings by the 7th October had been moderate and the VSC are keen for all spaces to be taken. The Training Days have been publicised in editions of the GBGB Calendar and the VSC will now look into publicising the event in the Veterinary Times and Veterinary Record. The Chairman will also be sending a letter to all GBGB licensed vets, highlighting the opportunity for feedback and input on areas such as the First Aid Box and Duties of a Track Vet document on day two of the Conference.
- It was suggested that it would be constructive if GBGB Stipendiary Stewards be asked to attend the Training Day. Equally, track vets are advised to attend one of the Track Safety seminars at either Nottingham Stadium on the 27th October or Wimbledon on 2nd November.

(ii) Training CD

- The ownership of the Vets Training CD was discussed. The CD, originally produced by Simon Adams and passed to SGV is currently being updated by Richard Payne. The ownership and copyright for the CD is to be discussed and clarified between the Chairman of the VSC and the Chairman of SGV. An updated version of the CD, to include the microchipping video recorded earlier this year, will be available at the Veterinary Conference.
- Members of the VSC are due to carry out teaching sessions for student vets at Nottingham and Bristol Universities.

Disease Outbreak/Quarantine Protocol

- The sub-committee reviewed a Standard Operating Procedure for Disease Outbreaks and Quarantine developed by Richard Payne. It was debated and approved as a working draft which provides an overview of how to deal with disease outbreaks, including initial control, quarantine, tracing, tests and investigations and reporting. The protocol was compared to a National Disease Plan from Greyhounds Australasia, which informs on how to treat specific conditions and prescribes treatment plans and the sub-committee debated whether this document should also include that level of detail at this stage. The document will be peer reviewed and considered alongside international protocols before being fully approved.

Rules Review Update

- (i) Transport of greyhounds in cars**
- (ii) Welfare breaks during race meetings**

- The recommendations made by the VSC in relation to the subjects above and detailed in previous summary notes are due to be considered at the next Welfare Standing Committee meeting.

Service level agreements - Update

- A document entitled 'The Duties of the Track Vet', previously distributed by the NGRC and currently available on the GBGB website was discussed and it was agreed that whilst it contains useful information, it is not suitable as a Service Level Agreement. It will be reviewed in detail by the sub-committee and discussed at the next VSC meeting. It was agreed that feedback on this document from all track vets would be valuable and a link to the web based version (at <http://www.thedogs.co.uk/thetrackvet.aspx>) will be placed in the Vets Conference invitation letter from Simon Gower to all licensed vets. Comments and debate will be welcomed on the second day of the Veterinary Conference.
- It was agreed that the document should include a list of senior vets and their contact details who can be contacted for expert advice. Volunteers for this list will also be called for at the Veterinary Conference.

Any other business

(i)Case of Sudden Death – Belle Vue Trainer Mr James (Brian) Thompson

- Richard Payne reported on a case of sudden death at Belle Vue trainer, Mr James Thompson's kennels in Stoke on Trent. The greyhound had exhibited signs of lethargy, anorexia and pyrexia and had been treated with Synulox but had unfortunately deteriorated. It was confirmed that Mr Thompson had undergone voluntary quarantine and that the cadaver of the greyhound was at the Animal Health Trust for investigation. It was advised that Mr Thompson be told to take his greyhounds off of any upcoming cards and that he and the GBGB and VSC be kept informed of any updates from the tests carried out. Mr Thompson's Stipendiary Steward was contacted for further details.

(ii)Kennel Cough Survey

- The Kennel Cough Survey developed by Richard Payne was approved by the VSC along with a covering letter and will now be distributed to approx 80 trainers via the Stipendiary Stewards. This will provide a good range of data from around the country about the presence of the condition in trainers' kennels.