

4th meeting of the GBGB Veterinary Sub-committee – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2010  
Summary Notes

Matters Arising

**(i) Cramping Questionnaire**

- The sub-committee discussed a cramp reporting form, designed by Richard Payne to investigate the previously discussed possible link between cramping greyhounds and cases of sudden death. The form will be reviewed incorporating the sub-committee's recommendations and an accompanying covering letter produced to explain the purpose of the form and how the information will be used. A finalised version will be proposed to the Welfare Standing Committee (WSC).
- Richard Payne clarified that owners/trainers should contact him if they specifically wish to see a report following a sudden death post mortem.

**(ii) Standard Operating Procedure for disease reporting**

- The sub-committee acknowledged and praised a letter written by Richard Payne on behalf of the VSC that had appeared in the Veterinary Times and Veterinary Record and reported on diseases of racing greyhounds, a recent outbreak of respiratory disease in South Yorkshire and which publicised reporting channels to the GBGB.
- A kennel cough survey which asks trainers to provide information on the presence of the condition in their kennels was reviewed. The survey, which aims to identify outbreaks of kennel cough /respiratory disease and detect any geographical patterns, will be refined using the suggestions of the sub-committee and presented, along with a covering letter for discussion at the next VSC meeting.
- The potential for greyhounds to pick up infections from inadequately cleaned track kennels was discussed. It was recommended that track vets discuss any concerns regarding the kennels with the track and Stipendiary Steward and report any unresolved issues to the GBGB via the GBGB complaint line.

**(iii) Treatment Book Stickers**

- A trial of the finalised treatment book stickers is currently being organised at a small number of tracks.

**(iv) Duty of Care/Vets Contact Details**

- A memo has been sent to all track Racing Offices requesting that they put together a list of local emergency vet contact details in collaboration with their track vet.

## VMD and unlicensed medication advice

- The VSC Chairman attended a meeting with the British Horseracing Authority and Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) where the VMD presented and answered queries on unlicensed medication reporting. They confirmed that they would like GBGB field staff and vets to be vigilant to the possession and use of unlicensed medication by trainers and are happy for them to report cases to the GBGB Director of Regulation to then be passed to the VMD.
- The VMD are also keen that vets should be advising trainers on the correct disposal of out of date and unlicensed medication and that they should endeavour to always prescribe the correct quantities of medication.
- The VMD have advised that if trainers ask vets to dispose of unlicensed medication, the vet should dispose of it immediately, as if caught in possession of such medication they could potentially be prosecuted.
- The sub-committee discussed GBGB rules relating to medication use and debated whether the need to adhere to veterinary medicines regulations needs to be stated explicitly in the rules. It was also discussed whether more information should be provided to trainers, detailing which medications are unlicensed (and specifically unlicensed for use in greyhounds).
- The sub-committee agreed that the VMD's information and advice on unauthorised medication would be an extremely useful GBGB vets training day topic. A presentation will be designed both for this event and for a separate presentation to the GBGB Stipendiary Stewards.

## Rules Review Committee

### **(i) Transport of greyhounds in cars**

- The sub-committee discussed the current GBGB Rules of Racing relating to the transportation of greyhounds, as well as areas of the EU Welfare in Transport regulations and Animal Welfare Act related to this subject. It was agreed that the GBGB Rules should be more prescriptive than they are currently and more so than the documents mentioned, and that they should specify details regarding numbers of greyhounds transported. A number of recommendations were agreed and will be proposed to the WSC.

### **(ii) Welfare breaks during race meetings**

- Following on from a discussion regarding welfare breaks at the last VSC meeting, the sub-committee had a detailed discussion on the logistics of running a small scale trial allowing greyhounds in later races access to a limited amount of water, under the supervision of the track vet. This proposal will be put to the WSC at their next meeting.

- The Chairman provided an update on the progress of a number of rule changes recommended by the VSC.

### Quarantine Protocol

- Following a recent outbreak of respiratory disease in South Yorkshire, the sub-committee discussed the need for a standard quarantine protocol and reviewed a draft protocol previously worked up by the SGV and NGRC in response to suspected cases of peracute haemorrhagic pneumonia in 2008. A new protocol will now be developed using aspects of the SGV protocol, and will be discussed at the next VSC meeting.

### Service level agreements

- An SLA paper, prepared by the VSC, was presented to the WSC and debated thoroughly with the result that a draft SLA is to be discussed with both promoter and VSC (via the VSC Chairman) input. The draft protocol is likely to include responsibilities of both track and track vet and details of an arbitration process. A system formerly used by the BGRB may be re introduced, whereby a track will need to inform the GBGB (via the CEO) if it wishes to dismiss it's vet and the GBGB will then make a recommendation to the BGRF as to whether the tracks veterinary payments should continue. It was highlighted that the disciplinary appeal process is available if a vet feels they have been dismissed unjustly.

### Training

#### **(i) GBGB Training Days**

- The sub-committee was updated on the progress of the GBGB vets training day which is likely to be held on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> November at Monmore Stadium. The training days are expected to include a presentation on the sudden death project, a presentation on VMD information and unlicensed medication and a lecture on from Professor Patrick Diel on gene doping as well as a question and answer session on the Rules of Racing. Full details will appear in the GBGB Calendar once arrangements have been confirmed.

#### **(ii) Training CD**

- The vets' training CD is to be updated to include the GBGB microchipping guide and a guide to hands on pre/post race inspections.

### Any other business

- The sub-committee considered a request for assistance in recruiting greyhounds to take part a cardiology research study, where dogs will take part in a cardiac work out and then be assessed using non-invasive methods such as ECG and ultrasound. More information has been requested prior to a decision being made.

- A space on the VSC has temporarily become available and the Chairman will be inviting a new member on to the committee utilising recommendations from sub-committee members.
- The subject of SGV/AGTV succession on the committee was raised by Simon Adams and discussed by the sub-committee and will be considered by the Chairman.
- A letter from the SGV published in the August 2010 Greyhound Star commenting on the new vets inspection form was acknowledged and discussed. It was considered disappointing that grievances with the form had been raised in this way, and not communicated to the VSC or GBGB.