

# **GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

*Attendant and Trainer Education Pack*

## **UNIT ONE - ATTENDANT**

### **Booklet 4 – At the Race Track – After the Race**



Greyhound Racing Victoria  
Attendant and Trainer Education Pack

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## Becoming an Attendant Booklet Series

This is the fourth in a series of six booklets that you must read to successfully become an Attendant. There are six short booklets in total. Once you have read and understand all of them, you must also complete the assessment in FastTrack.

Booklet 1: Introduction

Booklet 2: Greyhound Basics

Booklet 3: At the Race Track - Kennelling, Preparing for Racing, Boxing and Catching

**Booklet 4: At the Race Track – After the Race**

Booklet 5: Occupational Health and Safety

Booklet 6: Completing the Assessment

If you wish to become an Owner Trainer you must also complete the following five booklets and assessment:

Booklet 7: Setting Up an Optimal Training Environment

Booklet 8: Greyhound Health

Booklet 9: Education and Training

Booklet 10: Nominating

Booklet 11: Preparing a Greyhound for Re-Homing

If you wish to become a Public Trainer you must also complete the following two booklets and assessment:

Booklet 12: The Public Trainer

Booklet 13: Advanced Knowledge

# After the race

## 4.1 Post-race care

After the race, the greyhound will be panting and breathing heavily, and as a result, you may need to fit its collar a little more loosely. You do not want to restrict its breathing, as this is necessary for the recovery after the race, but at the same time you do not want the dog getting free. You may need to check the fit and gradually tighten the collar over time to ensure the greyhound remains under control. By the time you are ready to go home, the dog should have fully recovered and you will be able to fit the collar in a normal fashion.

After a race, it is important that the greyhound receives the correct cool-down. The cool-down period allows the greyhound to recover from the huge exertion of the race and provides an opportunity for the handler or trainer to make sure no injuries have been sustained, and that the dog has recovered well and is not overly stressed.

From the catching pen the greyhounds are taken to the wash bay. Here the sand is hosed from their legs and feet. The cool water from the hose also helps to bring their body temperature down as it will have been elevated by the heat generated in the dog's muscles during the race. The greyhounds are then walked around and are offered a drink of water.

Now is the time to look for any signs of injury sustained during the race. Is the dog's gait normal? Are there any signs of swelling or bruising? It is important to remember under **GAR 75 Matter**

**affecting performance to be reported**, that there is an obligation to report to Stewards anything that may have affected the running of a greyhound.

The greyhounds are walked around until they have recovered their breath and may be given an opportunity to empty out again, before being dried and placed back in their kennel. The colour of any urine passed should be noted. Dogs that are under stress may have a reddish-brown colour to their urine, so it is important to watch for this when the dog urinates after a race, particularly if it continues the next day. If you do see anything unusual you should make sure you tell the trainer of the greyhound, or if the greyhound is yours, have the greyhound thoroughly examined by your veterinarian as soon as possible, as this can be a sign of a serious problem. It is important that the dog is dried off before going back in its kennel as you do not want the dog becoming cold or for humidity to increase within the cage which will affect the dog's ability to cool itself through panting.

By this stage the Stewards will have had time to review the footage of the race and may decide to ask for certain dogs to be checked by the OTV ("vetted") or samples taken for drug testing ("swabbed"). They may also hold an inquiry into the running of the race.



## 4.2 What happens if a greyhound in my care is injured at the track?

Unfortunately, during racing, interference and collisions do sometimes occur.

Greyhounds may pull up during a race, fall, or collide with parts of the track such as the lure, rail, fence or catching pen gate. Injuries can range in severity from insignificant skin abrasions and grazes through to serious bone fractures and occasionally a death.

A process is in place for ensuring greyhounds injured at the track are provided with appropriate and immediate veterinary care and treatment. GRV provides on-track veterinarians (OTVs) at every greyhound race meeting in Victoria to help prevent injuries and support the welfare of greyhounds who are injured.

If a greyhound is injured, the OTV will undertake an examination of the greyhound and record, on a Veterinary Details Examination form, the findings of that examination and provide any necessary first aid and pain relief. In some cases, the OTV recommends further off-track veterinary care for the greyhound. If this recommendation includes a specific time-frame (same day, next day or within 3 days), the Steward will issue an order.

Failure to comply with this order can result in prosecution under GAR 106 (1)(d), GAR 106 (2) and GAR 86 (p).

With this order for further off-track veterinary care, the Steward will:

- provide you with a copy of the Veterinary Examination Details form;

- provide you with a signed Stewards Order form for Further Veterinary Care; and
- explain to you their requirement to obtain off-track veterinary care and the timeframe in must ensure the greyhound must be examined by an off-track veterinarian.

You will need to sign the Stewards Order form to show that you understand what is required.

Your injured greyhound may be eligible for funding for off-track treatment under the Greyhound Recovery Initiative (GRI). For further information on the GRI, go to the following link at:

<https://greyhoundcare.grv.org.au/greyhound-recovery-initiative/>.

If the greyhound is eligible for GRI funding, you will also receive the relevant GRI forms.



Following the race meeting you should also receive an email outlining the injury and any requirements relating to veterinary follow-up.

Sometimes the injuries to the greyhound are fairly minor, and the greyhound can simply be collected by track staff and walked carefully to the OTV's room within the kennel block. But sometimes the injuries sustained may be more serious,

and the greyhound will need to be transported, either by stretcher, carried by a member of the track staff, or in the emergency transport vehicle.

***It is important to remember that a race meeting will at all times be under the control of the Stewards.***

The Stewards are appointed or approved by GRV to carry out such duties as pursuant to Racing Rules or as directed by GRV.

Each track will have a designated Authorised Rescue Attendant, and these are the people who will take charge in the case of a greyhound needing attention and contacting the OTV.

If a greyhound is injured during a club trial, the responsibility will sit with the Club Manager and with the Starting Boxes Attendant (SBA) to take control of the emergency situation.

### 4.3 After the race

All greyhounds are returned to their kennels after the race. After each race the Stewards will review the video footage of the race and discuss any observations they have made. They then prepare a “Steward’s Report” of the race which is published on the GRV website so that any member of the public can read it. At this stage they may do a number of things, including hold an inquiry into the performance of a greyhound (or more than one greyhound), order a greyhound to be vetted, or to be swabbed, or clear a greyhound to leave.

Once the Stewards have ‘signed off’ on the race, indicating they are happy with the outcome and any matters have been attended to, you are free take your greyhound from the kennels and to leave.

To find out if you can leave, you need to consult the race sheet hanging outside the Steward’s room. After each race’s paperwork is completed, the Stewards will sign off that race on the running sheet, and all participants involved in that race are free to leave providing they do not need to be vetted, swabbed or spoken to. If you have a number of runners, you will not be able to leave before the last race you are involved in has been signed off.



You can leave the greyhounds from the earlier races in the kennels until it is time to go.

It is now up to you to ensure any greyhounds in your care get home safely. Most trainers will give the greyhounds some form of fluids and nutrition after running is commonly used rather than a full meal). For the journey home it is important that the greyhounds have warm, comfortable bedding, and are kept at a suitable temperature.

If you have a long journey home, it may be that you choose to give them a small meal prior to leaving to help replenish the energy they have lost or give them a drink. You want the journey home to be restful, and not to contribute to any soreness or injury they may have sustained.

### What happens if the Stewards call me in for an inquiry?

If the Stewards call you in after the race, you are required to go to the Stewards Room when asked. If there is concern about how your greyhound performed, they will explain to you why they have called you in, and what has prompted the inquiry. In many cases they will have vision of an incident and they will show you the vision and explain what they see happening.

Inquiries are generally called when a greyhound has failed to chase the lure properly or has interfered with ('marred') the race of another greyhound. In some cases, a warning will be given, in others, the greyhound in question may be issued a penalty and a Satisfactory Trial will be required before being able to race again.

As the person responsible for the greyhound you will be given an opportunity to explain your version of events and may be required to answer questions. The entire process of an inquiry is recorded so there are no doubts about what was and wasn't said at the time.

Stewards can hold an inquiry into any matter that is in contravention of the rules of racing, including the performance of a greyhound, or the behaviour of a registered person.

### What happens if my greyhound is ordered to be 'vetted' after a race?

Sometimes, a Steward will ask for a greyhound to be vetted after a race. They may be concerned that the dog has sustained an injury during the race, or it may have performed badly, suggesting something is not right.

If this is the case, a Steward will approach the catcher of the dog, or the trainer, and inform them that the dog is to be vetted. The person in charge of the dog is then required to present the greyhound to the OTV who will examine the dog at an appropriate time. The OTV will be looking for any injury that might have affected the dog's performance and will examine the dog thoroughly from head to toe.

In the case of an injury being detected, a period of 'stand down' may be imposed, based on the severity of the injury. The 'stand down' period means that the dog cannot be nominated to race again until this 'stand down' period has expired. In some cases, the greyhound may need to complete a satisfactory trial for the Stewards before being eligible to race again.

### What happens when my greyhound is to be 'swabbed'?

As all greyhounds are required to be presented for racing free of prohibited substances, it is necessary to ensure that this is in fact the case. Stewards can select any dog to be swabbed but also conduct random swabs. The GRV **Swab Sampling Policy and Procedures** as amended from time to time are available on the GRV website at

<https://greyhoundcare.grv.org.au/policies-and-guidance/>.

A sample may be taken on arrival at the racecourse (sometimes in the car park), prior to the race on retrieval from its kennel or after racing. If your greyhound is to be swabbed after a race, you will be escorted from the catching pen by a Steward. You will be allowed to wash down your dog and give it a drink from the regular hose and tap, and it will then be placed back in its original kennel or within the swabbing bay kennels and a security seal and a Steward's lock applied for additional security. When the time comes to have the sample collected (usually at least two races later), a Steward will escort you to the swabbing area to commence the procedure.

The swabbing process is very regimented and the Steward or OTV collecting the sample will explain each step to you. It is vital that you watch and understand the collection procedure from start to finish. Most samples collected are urine, while occasionally blood and/or hair samples can be taken.

Urine sample collection kits contain three clean plastic bottles, tamper evident seals and necessary documentation sealed together in a bag. You will confirm the unique number of the kit matches on the documentation and seals. Two of the bottles are empty, but the third bottle contains a 'control' fluid.

The person collecting the sample will wash his/her hands and then rinse the collection ladle with water. The collection ladle will then be rinsed with the 'control fluid' to ensure that any contaminants that might be present prior to collection can be detected. The control sample is placed back into its original bottle.

The next step is the collection of a urine sample. For this, you and the greyhound

are taken outside to the dog toileting area and a sample is caught in the collection ladle. Most greyhounds are quite obliging, and the sample should not take long to collect. In the situation where a sample is not collected (usually after repeated attempts), a blood sample may be required instead.

The urine sample is then brought back into the swabbing area, the remaining bottles are rinsed with the control solution and the sample is split in two bottles 'A' and 'B'. All bottles are then sealed and placed into the tamper evident security satchel.

You will have to sign the sample identity document confirming you observed the collection, sealing and packaging of the sample and that they had the same sample number. A copy of this document will be given to you for your records.

When blood or hair samples are collected, the processes regarding the documentation are similar, and these will be explained to you at the time.

### **What happens to the sample after collection at the track?**

The sample is kept refrigerated prior to transport to the laboratory. Once at the laboratory, it is logged by its sample number (the laboratory does not know which greyhound it is) and the 'A' sample is tested for prohibited substances. In less than 1% of cases a 'positive swab' is detected and in those cases, the control fluid that was used to rinse everything prior to collection will be tested at another laboratory to rule out contamination and the 'B' sample will also be tested to confirm the positive swab.

Any positive swabs will result in an inquiry by Stewards that normally commences by

notification at an unannounced kennel inspection. Stewards will investigate to look for a possible source of the positive swab or whether other breaches of the rules of racing have occurred. Stewards may issue appropriate charges against relevant participants that will be heard by the Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Board (RADB).

You are now ready to proceed to Booklet 5.

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