

Latest News

Latest News - GBGB Veterinary Director clarifies new Kennel Inspection Form

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Media Relations

Last week at the GBGB, GTA Chair Norah McEllistram met with Ian Taylor and Veterinary Director Simon Gower regarding the new GBGB veterinary inspection forms and the perceived added cost to a trainer such visits would bring. At the meeting, the reasoning behind the new form was agreed with expected veterinary costs clarified.

Simon Gower, Veterinary Director of the Greyhound Board said:

"Although the new kennel inspection form has been widely praised, there have been some misguided rumours that the detail in the inspection will necessitate a 3-4 hour visit by a vet and incur fees of up to £500.

'It is critical that we raise the standard of inspection in-line with that imposed by DEFRA and local authorities. As a guide, local authority inspections of boarding kennels can be expected to be charged at up to £120, and I would anticipate that most greyhound trainers kennels would command a fee of up to this. The welfare of our racing dogs is the prime concern for us all.

'When kennelling dogs for racing, a vet should be able to examine 80+ dogs within a 30-40 minute period. I would expect that a suitably trained veterinary surgeon would be able to do the same during a kennel visit.

'To do this the vet must have seen every greyhound during a kennel visit, and where special attention to individuals is called for, then a full examination is warranted, exactly the same as the process adhered to at each race meeting.'

In a letter of clarification to Simon Gower from the Certification Sub-Committee at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, it states:

"As the wording on the certificate is 'inspection' and not 'examination', the sub-committee feel that veterinary surgeons should inspect the animals, and only carry out an examination where they feel there is a problem with the animals.

'The veterinary surgeon is certifying that 'inspection' of the animals has taken place, and not examination of each animal.'

Simon Gower continued:

'Fees for kennel inspections are a commercial matter between vets and their clients, but I would advise that where a fee is quoted that seems extreme, that several quotes are obtained. In the first instance I would recommend employing either a licensed track vet, a member the Association of Greyhound Vets or a member of the Society of Greyhound Vets. Since these vets are closely linked to the sport, they are sympathetic to the financial plight of trainers.

'If there are cases where a suitable vet cannot be found then call GBGB on the vet helpline number, 020 7421 3799 and we will endeavour to find a vet in your area. There are inspection guidelines available by calling this number that the trainer can present to their vet to ensure correct practice is adhered to.'