



## **SGV POLICY ON THE TRANSPORT OF INJURED GREYHOUNDS**

The Society of Greyhound Veterinarians has produced this document to aid decision making by track vets, and to increase awareness of the new EU Transport of Animals Regulations (1/2005) which became law on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007. A new Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order is expected from DEFRA to complement EU 1/2005. This guide is an interpretation of the law for NGRC registered tracks, but other readers should be aware **that the principles apply to ALL animals for ALL journeys**. If in doubt an injured animal should either travel directly to a suitable veterinary practice, or be examined by a veterinary surgeon prior to travel to any other location. An extract from EU 1/2005 is attached to this guide and should be read through. It is the responsibility of the transporter to ensure that the regulations are adhered to, and the purpose of this guide is to help in this matter.

Greyhounds injured at a race track fall into four groups, of which three groups will need to be transported away from the track for further treatment, viz:

1. **CRITICALLY INJURED GREYHOUNDS** which are euthanased at the track (see separate SGV policy on ethical euthanasia).
2. **SERIOUS INJURIES** that require immediate referral to a Veterinary Centre.
3. **MAJOR INJURIES** that need to be reassessed by a Veterinary Surgeon within a specified time.
4. **MINOR INJURIES** which require first aid only, and can be managed by the Trainer.

Groups 2-4 will be discussed in detail. It should be borne in mind that euthanasia may be the best option for some greyhounds in groups 2 and 3, and this is covered by the SGV Ethical Euthanasia policy.

Greyhounds suffering from injuries in groups 2 & 3 and some of group 4 e.g. partial muscle tears or joint sprains, must travel in an estate car (or similar), or in a double-sized cage in a van, and be able to lie down in comfort whilst protecting the injury. The track Veterinary Surgeon should assess the transport personally (since the physical design of cars and vans varies so much), and see that the greyhound is, and is likely to be, comfortable. This is covered in greater detail in the SGV Transport Guidelines.

**It is well known that some injuries only become apparent when the greyhound has rested. As such, in order to help the trainers comply with the new transport regulations, the track vet should be available to check the greyhounds before they are loaded for transportation. This need only be a visual check for wounds and a trot up. Any injuries detected at this time should be assessed and treated as needed, and, as described below, a written direction may be given to the trainer/agent stating the greyhound's fitness to travel, the destination, and (if required) the time period within which a subsequent veterinary examination is needed. This is important as an injured animal which needs further veterinary attention may not be transported to a destination other than a veterinary practice without this certificate. The SGV has produced a triplicate certificate for use by track vets which fulfils these aims.**

The veterinary certificate produced under these guidelines serves three purposes:

- i) To license the movement of an injured greyhound to its home kennels, as a single journey.
- ii) To direct what further attention is required to the injured greyhound.
- iii) To provide a history of the first aid treatment.

The certificate may contain any combination of these objectives. These are set out below.

## **2. Serious Injuries**

Injuries that are included here:

- Long bone fractures
- Pelvic fractures
- Large skin lacerations
- Dislocations of joints other than phalangeal, e.g. elbow

The track vet must give appropriate first aid, e.g. analgesia, antibiotics, etc, and also physical support if necessary, e.g. bandages, temporary sutures, splints, casts (although physical support of long bone fractures is open to debate).

Arrangements are made for **immediate referral directly** to a Veterinary Practice where **suitable** facilities are available for treating the injury in question. Referral to a practice that is likely to refer the greyhound on is not a preferred route. Such a journey is unnecessary and as such likely to cause unnecessary suffering because further transport is needed before the suitable Veterinary Practice is reached. The Regulations do not allow transport where unnecessary suffering is involved (*Annex I, Chapter I, Part 3(c)*).

A concise history of the injury and its treatment should accompany the greyhound. A copy of this is to be sent to the Racing Office for follow up as described below. Note that under the law no specific travel licence is needed as the greyhound is travelling directly to another Veterinary Surgeon, but that it is advisable to make it clear on the certificate that this is the only journey allowed.

## **3. Major Injuries**

These include:

- Fractures of the tarsus and/or metatarsus
- Fractures of the carpus and/or metacarpus
- Fractures of phalanges
- Joint sprains causing obvious lameness
- Dislocations of phalangeal, metatarso- or metacarpo- phalangeal joints
- Muscle rupture where >50% of the structure is damaged
- Skin wounds that do not need suturing immediately (i.e. delayed primary closure) [*a slight anomaly, but these fit the group process described here*]

Such cases must receive adequate analgesia, antibiotics, etc and good physical support, where appropriate, at the track. A treatment report should accompany the greyhound, plus further doses of analgesic, etc as deemed necessary. The greyhound is to be transported to its home kennels with a written direction that further veterinary attention should be sought at a **SUITABLE NAMED PRACTICE WITHIN A STATED TIME PERIOD**. Copies of this is to be given both to the trainer for action, and the Racing Office for follow up checks with the superseding Veterinary Practice.

From the welfare view, this treatment and travel home is no different from being treated at a general veterinary practice and then being discharged home, with instructions for a check-up on a stated date.

*From EU 1/2005, Chapter 1, Article 1, Part 5:*

*This Regulation shall not apply to the transport of animals ..... directly to or from veterinary practices or clinics, under the advice of a veterinarian.*

In other words the track vets' room may be defined as a clinic, and as such injured greyhounds travelling *from* it are exempt from the requirement to travel directly to a Veterinary Practice *provided* the

track vet has been involved AND a certificate issued stating that the greyhound is fit to travel home. The greyhound's *next* journey must be *directly* to the named Veterinary Practice, as the certificate produced by the track vet is ONLY valid for the journey from the track directly to the home kennels.

The track Veterinary Surgeon must be satisfied that his/her treatment is adequate to allow this option to be used with no detriment to the greyhound and its injury. If there are doubts, then the greyhound should be referred immediately.

#### **4. Minor Injuries**

These include:

- Partial muscle tears
- Joint sprains causing very slight lameness
- Small skin wounds that do not need suturing
- Sand burns
- Track leg
- Abrasions and contusions
- Tail tip injury
- Torn nails
- Involved in a collision/ knocked over but no obvious injuries

Greyhounds with these injuries are free to go home AFTER A VETERINARY EXAMINATION that confirms or suggests a Minor Injury. Treatment may be given as required, and listed on the certificate so that the trainer can complete the treatment book.

The Regulations allow transport of animals with minor injuries (and also slightly ill animals), so no specific licence is required. (*Annex 1, Chapter 1, Part 3(a)*). A written direction is to be given to the trainer that states that the greyhound should be checked the next day for further / changed signs of injury, and that it is incumbent on the trainer to act accordingly for the benefit of the greyhound. The injury is reported to the Racing Office.

#### **Required actions with regard to the certificate / written direction**

The SGV certificates/written directions are triplicated, so the original travels with the greyhound, one copy to the Racing Office (who will forward to the NGRC), and one copy for the Veterinary Surgeon's records. The following is also required:

Proper completion of the certificate by the Veterinary Surgeon.

Action by the trainer: The greyhound should be treated as directed by the Veterinary Surgeon's certificate.

Actions by the Racing Office: The veterinary certificate is copied to the NGRC. Also a nominated person within the Racing Office should make contact with the named Veterinary Practice, quoting the certificate number, and confirm that the track vet's directions have been met.

Animal suffering may result if these written directions are not followed. Failure to do so will result in further investigation by the NGRC.

## **Notes**

1. Trainers should provide the Racing Office with the details of their Named Veterinary Practice(s). One of these must be an orthopaedic practice. See form below.
2. Access to the RCVS register of Veterinary Surgeons (either online or a hard copy) should be available to identify the NVP.
3. Ideally newer vehicles should be fitted with a pair of single cages where the shared partition can be removed to convert them to a double cage. The track Veterinary Surgeon should make a judgment on the suitability of the transport where this device is not available.
4. The format of the written direction is attached, but all SGV track vets will be issued with a triplicate pad and dispenser.
5. EU 1/2005 Annex I Chapter I is attached for reference.
6. A quick guide to the SGV policy requirements:

	<b>Referral to named practice</b>	<b>Travel Certificate</b>	<b>Treatment Record supplied</b>	<b>Follow-up</b>
<b>Critical</b>	n/a	n/a	Euthanasia	Ensure NGRC green form completed
<b>Serious</b>	Immediate	Advisable	Yes	Yes
<b>Major</b>	Within stated period	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Minor</b>	Optional	No	Yes	Optional

**FIRST AID TREATMENT, WRITTEN DIRECTION, AND  
TRANSPORT CERTIFICATE**

*Please write clearly to avoid errors.*

*To be completed by the attending Veterinary Surgeon.*

**NAME OF DOG AND EAR MARKS:** .....

**SUSPECTED INJURY:** .....

**FIRST AID TREATMENT PROVIDED (Inc. all drugs and doses administered)**

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**ADVICE TO TRAINER/OWNER, and if needed: NAMED VETERINARY PRACTICE and MAXIMUM TIME ALLOWED UNTIL NEXT VETERINARY EXAMINATION. If the greyhound is travelling home, then the next journey must be to the named Veterinary Practice:**

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.....

**DATE:** .....

**TIME:** .....

**SIGNATURE:** .....MRCVS

**PRINT NAME:** .....

**TRACK:** ..... ##cert no.##

**VETERINARY PRACTICE INFORMATION**

TRAINER:

TEL. NUMBERS:

HOME:

WORK:

MOBILE:

USUAL VETERINARY PRACTICE

ORTHOPAEDIC VETERINARY PRACTICE (If different from above)

Please return this form to the Racing Office or the Track Vet.

ANNEX I

**TECHNICAL RULES**

(as referred to in Article 6(3), Article 8(1), Article 9(1) and (2)(a))

CHAPTER I  
**FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT**

1. No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.
2. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:
  - (a) they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
  - (b) they present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
  - (c) they are pregnant females for whom 90 % or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week;
  - (d) they are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed;
  - (e) they are pigs of less than three weeks, lambs of less than one week and calves of less than ten days of age, unless they are transported less than 100 km;
  - (f) they are dogs and cats of less than eight weeks of age, unless they are accompanied by their mother
  - (g) they are cervine animals in velvet.
3. However, sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are:
  - (a) slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause additional suffering; in cases of doubt, veterinary advice shall be sought;
  - (b) transported for the purposes of Council Directive 86/609/EEC f) if the illness or injury is part of a research programme;
  - (c) transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis. However, such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned;

(d) animals that have been submitted to veterinary procedures in relation to farming practices such as dehorning or castration, provided that wounds have completely healed.

4. When animals fall ill or are injured during transport, they shall be separated from the others and receive first-aid treatment as soon as possible. They shall be given appropriate veterinary treatment and if necessary undergo emergency slaughter or killing in a way which does not cause them any unnecessary suffering.
  5. Sedatives shall not be used on animals to be transported unless strictly necessary to ensure the welfare of the animals and shall only be used under veterinary supervision.
  6. Lactating females of bovine, ovine and caprine species not accompanied by their offspring shall be milked at intervals of not more than 12 hours.
  7. Requirements of paragraphs 2(c) and 2(d) do not apply for registered Equidae if the purpose of the journeys is to improve the health and welfare conditions of birth, or for newly born foals with their registered mares, provided that in both cases the animals are permanently accompanied by an attendant, dedicated to them during the journey.
- 0 OJ L 358, 18.12.1986 p. 1. Directive as last amended by Directive 2003/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L230, 16.9.2003, p. 32).