

# SOCIETY OF GREYHOUND VETERINARIANS

A DIVISION OF THE BRITISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



## **Society of Greyhound Veterinarians Autumn Conference & Annual General Meeting 2008:**

### **Track Vets on the Net!**

The Autumn Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Society of Greyhound Veterinarians [S.G.V.], the specialist division of the British Veterinary Association dedicated to the veterinary care and welfare of the racing greyhound, took place at Belle Vue Greyhound Stadium, Manchester last weekend by kind permission of GRA Ltd. and sponsors Armitage's Pet Products Ltd.

Members and guests, including some soon-to-be-familiar faces from the Greyhound Board of Great Britain were treated to presentation from a range of speakers, the high quality of whom was due in large part to the financial support the Society receives from the British Greyhound Racing Board Welfare Committee. Brisbane vet Richard Eaton-Wells spoke on the outlook for fracture repair, showing how correct diagnosis, adequate and aggressive treatment combined with an early return to mobility can permit the return to racing of dogs with injuries once considered career-ending. This orthopaedic theme was continued by Cheshire-based veterinary surgeon Mike Guilliard, who outlined a minimally invasive treatment for toe dislocations that offers a viable alternative to toe amputation. Richard Payne spoke about the physics and biomechanics of greyhounds running around bends, and related these to track dimensions. His overview of the physical behaviour of wet-sand tracks complemented the presentation on the preparation of safe tracks given by Bill Glass of Stadia UK. The training program was completed by Steve Dean of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate who outlined recent changes in veterinary medicines regulations, a topic of great interest to track vets as all premises from which drugs are dispensed must be registered by law by April 2009.

The A.G.M. of the Society took the form of a working lunch and saw the election of Tony Collins as President. Tony will be ably assisted by Vice Presidents Newcastle track vet Frances Allen and Richard Lockyer, once track vet at the 'Stow. Independent tracks will have an increased voice in the Society in the era of GBGB with the election to Council of Harry Coulthard. A packed agenda included the launch of an on-line network dedicated to encouraging communication between practising track and greyhound vets which will be open to all vets in the U.K. and Ireland, not only S.G.V members. Those interested in participating are invited to apply on line at [trackvetdiscussiongroup@googlemail.com](mailto:trackvetdiscussiongroup@googlemail.com)

Yours in Sport,

*Michael Watts MRCVS, Press Officer & P.R.O.  
38 Manse Road Glaslough  
Kircubbin  
Newtownards  
Co.Down BT22 1DR*

*Mobile: 079 687 924 66*

*E-Mail: [michaelwatts@fsmail.net](mailto:michaelwatts@fsmail.net)*