
Welfare Issues

Greyhound Phoenix Strategy
Group presentation to the National
Greyhound Consultative Forum

10th November 2016

Overview

There is a need for accountability from cradle to grave of a dog. The whole process of registrations and updates needs to be reviewed and streamlined. Although, there is a national database being developed, it needs additional mechanisms so that no dog slips through the net. There is a need for a retirement notification, as we must take into account the whole life cycle of the Greyhound.

Actions in regard to welfare issues that could benefit the industry

- Educate Breeders/Owners/Trainers that they are accountable.
- IGB should reduce the cost of keeping paperwork up-to-date but introduce stringent penalties at any stage the accountability process breaks down.
- Continuing professional development should be provided for all IGB staff on the ground, so they can monitor effectively welfare issues.
- There should also be a minimum standard that each track should adhere to regarding racing kennels and facilities. Grants should be given to tracks for bringing racing kennels up to a welfare standard
- A Vet needs to be on site during race nights from the time of weigh-in and they need to be pro-active on the health of a Greyhound before racing.

Re-homing

A function of Welfare is re-homing and as such, it is an area of great importance and the work done in this regard needs to be highlighted and resources ring-fenced to develop and promote it further. Re-homing initiatives need to be industry led.

- It is important to distinguish between perceived “rescued” kennels and “re-homing” kennels, as the connotations of the former do not portray correctly the ethos of the Welfare/Rehoming process.
- Adequately fund an Industry led foster home scheme e.g.: create a register of potential foster parents and decide a realistic fee to be paid each week of the foster care which should be no more than 16 weeks.
- Highlight in media the work being done in rehoming and the positives of a retired greyhound as a pet.
- IGB should immediately react to any situation that could harm the reputation of Welfare within the industry.

Questions for the IGB

- Is the board aware that some kenneling facilities at tracks are over 25 years old? Situations exist where basic amenities like fit-for-purpose Greyhound wash-bay areas and adequate lighting do not exist.
- What measures are being taken to ensure the Welfare of Irish bred greyhounds that are exported?
- The IGB stated that it was developing an education programme to cover practical and academic aspects of general greyhound knowledge. Can you please let us know the current status of this programme?
- Currently this Education programme is to be offered to include aspects of breeding, rearing, training and racing. Can it be extended to include care of the Retired Racing Greyhound and be offered to anyone re-homing a dog?

