



## Track Injury Surgery Rebate Scheme on Race Nights

### **Policy Background**

The Darwin Greyhound Association is committed to ensuring the instances of euthanasia resulting from severe race meeting injuries are minimised. From this, a description below to enable financial contribution to the repair and rehabilitation of these injuries has been established with the particulars outlined in the following policy.

### **The Policy**

DGA will commit to a financial contribution to participants for the cost of surgery for injuries that:

1. Occur in the course of a normal race meeting or trial night
2. Are defined by the on-course vet and Chief Steward to warrant further investigation into the severity of the injury
3. Are considered by the on-track veterinarian severe enough in consultation with the Chief Steward and Owner/Trainer to warrant surgery and subsequent financial assistance from the DGA

### **Application of the Policy**

#### Incident and Greyhound Assessment

Following a significant racing injury to the greyhound the on-track vet in consultation with the steward in charge and representative of the greyhound (owner/trainer), will determine the likely outcomes as a result of veterinary intervention and the prospects for recovery.

The on-track vet and senior stewards may direct the greyhound be taken off track for further veterinary investigation to determine whether the greyhound

needs surgical intervention. It is an offence under the Rules of Racing not to comply with this direction.

### Post Assessment and Post Surgery

The on-track vet will provide the appropriate care to ensure the wellbeing and the greyhound prior to the scheduling of surgery, which may mean stabilisation of the injury overnight. Direction will be provided by the on-track vet as to the most suitable care required for the greyhound prior to surgery.

If the intention is for the greyhound to be rehomed following surgery, the owner and trainer are responsible for the full recovery of the greyhound so a thorough rehabilitation period is undertaken for the wellbeing of the greyhound in their care subsequent to the initial financial support under this scheme.

### **Financial contribution/support from the DGA**

DGA will refund up to 90% of surgery costs and associated costs (eg: Bandaging and prescribed medications). Following completion of the surgery and payment of the surgery invoice, participants can apply for reimbursement costs from the DGA with all relevant paperwork which must include the invoice and name of the dog, as well as supporting documentation from the Steward in Charge on the night of the decision undertaken.

The DGA can also provide a \$200 subsidy for any greyhound that has been directed off course for further veterinary investigation to alleviate costs when surgery has not found to be necessary. To be clear this is at the recommendation of the on-track vet and senior stewards on the night, again the invoice and supporting documentation must be provided to the DGA and this subsidy cannot be claimed separately if the greyhound does undergo surgery.

The recommendation from the DGA is that the veterinary clinic to be used is the one where the on-track vet works (Ark Animal Hospital), this makes for a seamless transition so all protocols and paperwork can be followed right through the process.

## **Rights of Appeal**

The DGA has full rights in regards to the eligibility of this policy, under the guidance of the on-track vet and senior stewards they will take into account all cases understanding the importance of the wellbeing and safety of all greyhounds.

As mentioned previously all relevant paperwork and supporting documentation must be sent to the DGA staff @ [racingdga@iinet.net.au](mailto:racingdga@iinet.net.au) or [admin@iinet.net.au](mailto:admin@iinet.net.au) and will be forwarded accordingly to the DGA Committee for their decision/approval.

The DGA also reserves the right to change or alter the Track Injury Surgery Rebate Scheme at any time, please note it is at the discretion of the on track vet on duty and the Chief Steward in conjunction with the owner and or trainer on race night to make the decision re the severity of the injury and if it potentially requires surgery or x-rays at a minimum.

Lastly this scheme is for the safety of our greyhounds on race night and eligibility requires that the greyhound in mention must be checked and confirmed to have the injury by the on-track vet before leaving the meeting on the relevant race night and recorded via the Steward in Charge on that night.

