

GIPAC Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date	Friday, 25 June 2021
Time	1:00pm-2:00pm AEDT
Present:	GIPAC - Tracy Hindmarsh (Council Chair), Jenny Barnett, Amanda Ginn, Martin Hallinan, Gayle Masterson GWIC – Steve Griffin, Wade Birch, Juliet Corish, Katie Foran
Apologies:	Jason Lyne, Barry Ward, Mark Bell
Secretariat/ minute taker:	Matthew Larnach

1. Welcome and apologies

- Noted that GIPAC Workplan and minutes are now available to the public on the GWIC website, accessible at this [location](#).
- Emphasised the important of the Council for feeding industry issues back to GWIC and the role members play in acting on behalf of industry participants.

2. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting

- The minutes from the meeting held on 30 April 2021 were formally adopted by the participants.

3. Outstanding action items

Action Ref	Meeting date	Action	Person responsible	Due date	Comments
21/7	26/02/21 Item 9	Scratching from race during storms without penalty Steve Griffin to investigate potential policy for non-penalty scratch, from storms and report back to advisory council during next month's meeting.	Steve Griffin		Update 25/6 - Transferred to Wade Birch
21/9	26/02/21 Item 16	Introduce Breeder incentives	Barry Ward		Ongoing

		Barry Ward to provide Steve Griffin a note in relation to this and once provided, Steve Griffin to raise topic with GRNSW.			
21/10	26/02/21 Item 18	Other Steve Griffin to confirm if any changes with the Breeding Exemption Rule has been included in the rewrite and get back to the advisory council on this, if any findings.	Steve Griffin		No changes at this time. Closed
21/11	26/03/21 Item 3	Breeding Lease Agreements GWIC to reconsider Breeding Lease Agreement and conditions under which females are bred, due to a recent case with a non-compliant breeding facility.	Michelle Ledger	31/0 5/21	Case review underway and options for breeding lease administration to be considered following that review
21/13	26/03/21 Item 6	Portable produce purchase centres GWIC to consider a portable GWIC veterinary trailer and report back to the council	Michelle Ledger		In progress
21/14	26/03/21 Item 10	First Starters and Trials Council and GWIC to bring together options and forward to GRNSW, GBOTA and the broader industry.	All Referred to Michelle Ledger		Update 25/6 - Transferred to Wade Birch
21/15	30/04/21 Item 6	Owner/Handler License merge Steve to follow up with Michelle Ledger/Richard Sollorz regarding potential merging of the Owner and Handler licenses	Steve Griffin		

Feedback in relation to proposed GWIC policy

4. Exercise, Socialisation & Enrichment – Katie Foran

- GWIC has undertaken track visit to communicate the Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment Policy to participants.



- An optional template has been circulated to assist participants in reporting their compliance with the Code of Practice, and the Commission is seeking feedback on this form.
 - Concerns were raised regarding the need to provide toys for racing dogs. Issues discussed included the potential for the dogs to subsequently injure themselves or swallow foreign items.
 - No concerns raised with layout of template.
 - Noted that the Exercise, Socialisation & Enrichment Policy will undergo a name change. Suggestions welcomed.
 - Any additional feedback to be passed onto Katie.

Feedback in relation to GWIC

- No issues raised

Emerging Industry issues

5. Pin firing of greyhounds and eligibility to race – Wade Birch

- The Commission has recently identified a number of greyhounds which exhibited evidence of being subjected to pin firing. Further investigation confirmed this.
- Pin firing involves subjecting animal to a thermal stimulus to counter an existing injury, resulting in scarring. Has no scientific evidence of therapeutic benefit (only perceived benefit may be through subsequent long lay-offs which assist in healing pre-existing underlying injury) and is a prohibited practice under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Noted is considered professional misconduct in the UK.
- GWIC is seeking, through broad industry consultation, to determine what approach to adopt regarding the future of those greyhounds subjected to pin firing. Those dogs currently identified have not been subsequently allowed to race, however no specific provision in the rules exists concerning this subject.
- Noted that there is concern of greyhound suffering further injury, and that an MRI or CT scan, along with moratorium period, would be a prerequisite if they were to be allowed to race again.
- Council expressed concern regarding impact to owners who likely were unaware of their dogs being subjected to this treatment by trainers. If dogs were subsequently retired owners would be required to rehome, loss of prize money, financial burdens, etc.
- GWIC will continue to consult broadly within the industry, as well as seek precedents in other industry's such as horse racing and return to this Council with a position paper for its consideration.

6. GWIC Kennel Inspections – Steve Griffin

- Was raised during Select Committee hearings. The circulated document is intended to act as a fact sheet, and the Commission invites further feedback.
- In particular, GWIC is keen to highlight external avenues for recourse should participants feel aggrieved by an outcome, available as GWIC is a governmental body.
- Ultimately, GWIC seeks to enable participants to feel more comfortable in approaching them to discuss or seek redress on an outcome.
- Is proactively adopting an approach that encompasses two-way accountability, i.e. both participants and GWIC employees are to be held accountable for their actions. An emphasis is being placed on mutual co-operation to reach desirable outcomes.
- Issues relating to use of body worn cameras will be discussed at future meeting of the Council.

7. Race day treatments – Wade Birch

- Issue raised owing to recent issue experienced by NSW participant in QLD.
- GWIC is seeking to clarify protocols on this issue and seeking input on hydration and race day treatment of greyhounds and a position that is appropriate to the industry.
- Noted 2018 media release from Greyhounds Australasia that defined race day treatments as food, water and small volume of electrolytes.
https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/890135/GAR-83A-Restrictions-on-Raceday-treatments-and-day-prior.pdf
- Council noted that each trainer is different in regard to approach. For example, for dogs that are bad travellers (excessive panting etc) hydration products such as Recharge or Baladene or often used.
- Concerns raised over necessary medications in car (paracetamol, blood pressure medication etc.)
- Noted that there is a perception issue created by trainers providing treatments to greyhounds in the carpark before kennelling.
- Stewards are required to be able to officiate the provision of treatments and ensure any negative perceptions are addressed.
- In particular noted concerns regarding existence of syringes, for measuring treatments, in trainers' cars.
- GWIC desires to develop and establish a coherent, fair and understandable position on this issue.

Action 21/16 - Wade Birch to draft position paper on Race Day Treatments for presentation at the next meeting of this Council.

8. Other Business

- Raised new funding model, as announced by the Minister. GWIC to be funded through Point of Consumption Taxes.
 - Will help address erroneous perception that GWIC funding comes at the expense of the industry (prize money etc.).
- Racing Analytical Services Laboratories (RASL) has been selected as preferred swabbing tenderer for the Commission.
 - This group delivered a presentation at the recent Stewards Conference regarding detection of prohibited substances and minimum thresholds. GWIC is keen for further presentations to dispel myths/misconceptions in the industry regarding dosage amounts, and a joint GBOTA/GIPAC presentation is currently being planned.
- Kennel Bay Allocation
 - Concern still exists regarding confidentiality of kennel allocations. Noted that GWIC now only provides this information to chairing steward and kennel supervisor prior to meetings.
 - Concern that not all clubs are following processes. Also concern regarding club staff eating near kennels, potential for contamination.

Action 21/17 - Wade to follow up with clubs to ensure processes regarding kennel allocations and confidentiality are being followed.

- Kennelling in high traffic areas and concern impact this is having on dogs, e.g. near entrance/exit. Noted issues will be able to be forwarded to GRNSW to address as part of future facilities upgrades/designs.
- Pre-race swabs
 - Noted concerns regarding timing of this and impact to dogs and trainers when pre-race swabs are taken.

Action 21/18 - Wade to follow up with stewards regarding processes and timing of pre-race swabs.

9. Summary of Actions

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21/15	30/04/21 Item 6	Owner/Handler License merge Steve to follow up with Michelle Ledger/Richard Sollorz regarding potential merging of the Owner and Handler licenses	Steve Griffin		
21/16	30/06/21	Race Day Treatments Wade Birch to draft position paper on Race Day Treatments for presentation at the next meeting of this Council.	Wade Birch		
21/17	30/06/21	Kennel Allocations Wade to follow up with clubs to ensure processes regarding kennel allocations and confidentiality are being followed.	Wade Birch		



21/18	30/06/21	Pre-race Swabs Wade to follow up with stewards regarding processes and timing of pre-race swabs.			
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10. Next meeting: Friday, 30 July 2021