

AWP(021) – Greyhound Recovery Initiative Policy

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Objective

To ensure that all greyhounds sustaining a serious injury during racing or trialling are properly assessed at a veterinary hospital using diagnostic imaging before an injury management decision is made, and to provide participants with financial support to enable treatment of injured greyhounds while retaining custodianship.

Greyhound Recovery Initiative Policy



The Greyhound Recovery Initiative (GRI) is a Racing and Wagering Western Australia's (RWWA) program to provide funding towards the off-track veterinary diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of a greyhound that is confirmed to have a 'GRI-eligible' injury sustained during a race, qualifying trial, or public trial held at a WA racetrack.

Eligibility

A GRI-eligible injury or medical condition is defined as:

- any bone fracture except a single metacarpal or metatarsal fracture, a toe (phalangeal and/or sesamoid) fracture or a tail fracture; or
- any joint dislocation above and including the carpus or hock. This excludes a metacarpal-phalangeal or metatarsal-phalangeal dislocation, a toe dislocation or a tail dislocation; or
- a complete Achilles tendon rupture; or
- severe lacerations requiring extensive surgery; or
- any other injury where on-track euthanasia may otherwise be considered appropriate by the On-Track Veterinarian.

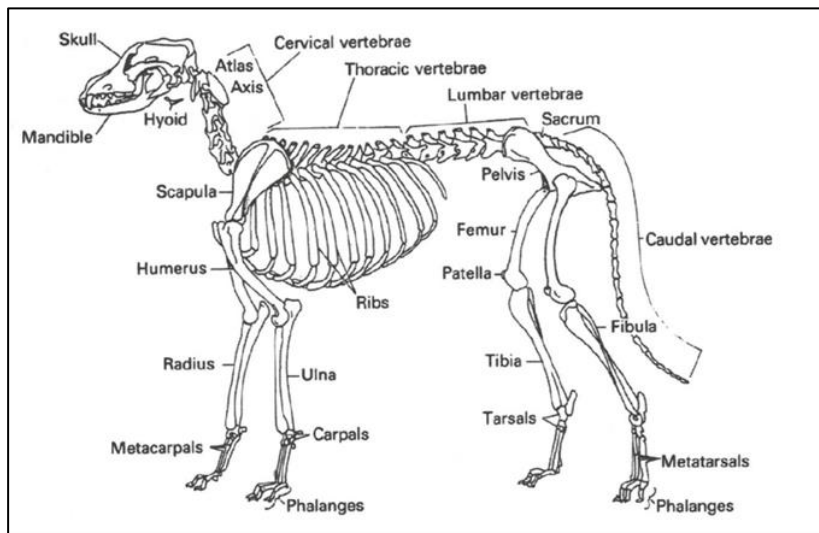


Figure 1. Greyhound anatomy

Where the incident takes place during the conduct of a race meeting, the On-Track Veterinarian (OTV) must stabilise the injury/condition and administer appropriate treatment and may require that the greyhound receives overnight veterinary care at an emergency veterinary clinic (GRI-funded). The Stewards will issue a directive to the participant in charge of the greyhound to seek veterinary attention within a specified timeframe based upon the recommendation of the OTV.

Unless approved by RWWA, the greyhound must be admitted into the program by the OTV (or Trial Supervisor, if injured at a public trial) prior to the greyhound leaving the racetrack on the day of the incident.

Transfer and assessment

The participant in charge of the greyhound must arrange transportation for the greyhound to an off-track veterinarian of their choice for a veterinary diagnostic consultation. The greyhound may be transported by the participant or an authorised representative, or the participant may give consent for the OTV Assistant (OTVA) to transport the greyhound to the RWWA contracted veterinary clinic (if available). The diagnostic consultation must be conducted by a veterinarian registered to practise and operate within Western Australia. The purpose of this veterinary consultation is to obtain an accurate diagnosis of the injury and its prognosis.

Where an eligible injury occurs at a race meeting the assessment by the off-track veterinarian must take place within the timeframe designated by the Stewards. Where a potentially eligible injury occurs at a public trial, the greyhound must be transported to a veterinary clinic for immediate assessment to maintain eligibility to access the rebate.

Responsibility for greyhounds

The ownership of the greyhound and all responsibility thereof remains with the registered owner of the greyhound and/or the current licensed custodian of the animal. This includes where the greyhound is transferred to a RWWA contracted veterinary clinic by the OTVA. RWWA accepts no responsibility for any services provided by a RWWA-contracted veterinary clinic apart from payment for services outlined in this policy for the assessment and treatment of GRI-eligible injuries.

Funding

Funding consists of veterinary costs payable directly to a RWWA contracted veterinary clinic and/or reimbursement to the participant where the greyhound is presented for treatment at a veterinary clinic of their choice. In addition, where eligible, a GRI Rehabilitation Rebate is payable directly to the participant based on the veterinary recommended rehabilitation period, and other requirements as set out in this policy regarding the injury rehabilitation process.

Following the initial off-track veterinary diagnostic consultation options for injury management are as follows:

1. Injury confirmed to be GRI-eligible:
 - a) RWWA will fund all reasonable costs of the initial veterinary diagnostic consultation, including immediate treatment, such as pain relief and/or stabilisation necessary to ensure the welfare of the greyhound during this stage, and up to the point of reaching a diagnosis up to a maximum amount of \$1,500.
 - b) Following these initial diagnostics and a decision being made by the participant in charge of the greyhound regarding management of the injury based on veterinary advice, RWWA will contribute, over and above diagnostics funding, as follows:
 - i) where the veterinarian recommends conservative (non-surgical) treatment, all reasonable veterinary costs for the conservative treatment of the injury will be funded up to \$2,000; or
 - ii) where the greyhound is treated surgically, all reasonable veterinary costs for the treatment and post operative care, including hospitalisation if required, will be funded up to \$5,500; or
 - iii) where the prospects of recovery with an acceptable welfare outcome are poor, such that euthanasia is considered by the veterinarian to be in the best interests of the greyhound, RWWA will fund the cost of euthanasia.

2. Injury confirmed to be GRI-ineligible:

RWWA will not rebate any costs associated with the diagnosis and treatment of ineligible injuries. All costs remain the responsibility of the participant.

RWWA reserves the right to refuse payment if completed paperwork (including invoices and receipt of payment) is not received within 56 days (8 weeks) post-discharge.

Repayment of rebate

If the greyhound returns to racing, any financial rebate received through this policy for the veterinary treatment of the greyhounds' injury, whether conservative or surgical, must be repaid in full prior to the greyhound being considered eligible for re-instatement to race. Further, a veterinary report from the relevant veterinary surgeon who performed the surgery or managed the conservative treatment of the injury must be provided to the Stewards stating that the greyhound has fully recovered and is suitable to race again. The greyhound must successfully complete a satisfactory trial before being eligible for a clearance to race.

Where the greyhound is retained for breeding, the rebate received does not need to be repaid.

No greyhound will be eligible to receive more than one injury rebate under the RWWA GRI.

Rehabilitation rebate

The participant in charge of the greyhound must arrange appropriate care and rehabilitation for the greyhound while it recovers and is rehabilitated. In addition to funding for veterinary costs, the participant may also be eligible for the Rehabilitation Rebate to help with the cost of caring for the greyhound during recovery, which can be used in any manner including payment of additional veterinary costs. To be eligible for the Rehabilitation Rebate, the greyhound must have a confirmed GRI-eligible injury and RWWA must have received necessary documentation to show the greyhound has been treated under the GRI. This includes the completed part B of the GRI Admission Form (AWF045 or AWF046) (showing the estimated period of rehabilitation) and the completed Rehabilitation Claim Form (AWF047).

Any greyhound in rehabilitation in the GRI may be subject to Steward's inspections at any time. The Rehabilitation Rebate is payable at RWWA's absolute discretion and is as follows:

- \$100/week (for the duration of the rehabilitation plan prescribed by the veterinarian, up to a maximum period of 14 weeks) where the participant completes the rehabilitation themselves or engages another person to undertake the rehabilitation.

Rehoming

The participant remains responsible for re-homing the greyhound if it is not kept as a pet or for breeding purposes.

Where the participant chooses to make an application to rehome the greyhound through GAP, the greyhound must meet the entry requirements of GAP's current intake procedures. To be accepted into GAP, the greyhound must meet all ordinary GAP entry requirements including:

- i. be in sound health and fully recovered from the injury or surgery;
- ii. be signed off as suitable for rehoming by the treating veterinarian, with relevant medical history provided; and
- iii. be fully vaccinated (to GAP requirements).

Related Documents



- AWF045 Greyhound Recovery Initiative (GRI) – Application Form (Form A)
- AWF046 Greyhound Recovery Initiative (GRI) – Public Trials Application Form (Form B)
- AWF047 Greyhound Recovery Initiative (GRI) – Rehabilitation Rebate (Form C)

Document Control

Review every two years



Version	Change	Authoriser	Republished
1.0	First issued	Head of Animal Welfare	01/02/2024
2.0	Conservative treatment rebate added	Head of Animal Welfare	26/03/2024