

(A) Vets in the industry

I have worked as a Veterinarian in the greyhound industry for almost 40 years. I was one of the original veterinarians in the Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association , served as president for a number of years and am still an office holder.

I have been an OTV (on track veterinarian; on and off for 39 years.) Serving at Sandown, Newcastle ,Maitland and Gosford.

All regular, experienced track veterinarians were replaced with industry employed vets some years ago. In my case at the gardens, no one even bothered to inform me that I was no longer required.

I was not disappointed at my stage of life to loose this Saturday night gig but I think a number of my colleges were.

**The result of this decision was.**

- **Experienced industry vets are no longer in attendance at race meetings. (Greyhound medicine is a specialist area.)**
- **Younger vets without experience, or proper training and induction were thrown into a job where they are pressured by participants and stewards and they're employer.**
- **Therefore it was difficult to retain or keep staff. (Vets)**
- **Mistakes that impact treatment and animal welfare are not uncommon.**
- **Policy of non euthanasia for serious accidents, followed by a horrific journeys to a distant home after 1st aid, have occurred and are certainly a breach of care for the industry.**
- **Veterinary treatment care and decisions are not at the level it should be.**
- **The OTV manual available from the AVA should used in NSW.**

**Suggestions**

- **OTV ( on track veterinarians) at least have an induction program conducted by an experience greyhound vet to cover protocols for injury examination , standown periods. Conduct with stewards and participants, I think a one day course would suffice for confidence and competence and communication.**

**Euthanasia Policy at the track. If we have a serious injury in a greyhound that is not suitable for rehoming and cannot be repaired sufficiently for return to racing, then euthanasia at the track should be an option for the owner.**

IB) Swabbing for Drugs.

- **Technique. We still reuse a stainless steel ladle at each track for each swab assuming that a rinse with the control solution will reveal any contaminants in the ladle.**
- **As a particle of dust weighs 800 ng and our diagnostic machines are measuring down to 1-2 ng/ml, I think this is a big worry.**

**Suggestion . sealed one use plastic ladle.**

**.Caffeine and breakdown products at low levels . so widespread in our environment no human athletes are not tested for these.**

- Meat contaminants, Xylazine. Ketamine. Atropine . Horse tranquilliser.**
- owners medication. Blood pressure/ asthma / depression.**

**The analysts and stewards know from the minute levels (way below a therapeutic effect they are contaminants ) yet they pursue the full prosecution , naming , shaming, penalising people to show they are doing their job.**

**B- Sample. Your B sample goes to an independent lab with covering letter! Please examine this sample for Substance A which we found. ( now there's scientific confidence for you amongst our accredited analysts.)**

**Their early efforts doing testosterone levels were so conflicting they had to reword their reports to exceeding this, or below that, and not include levels.**

**Our industry pays them millions but looking at the reports, we see barely more than caffeine and the odd anti-inflammatory, and contaminant. Mostly accidents and mistakes (cobalt)**

#### **Suggestion**

- Samples that come back with contaminant levels , way below a therapeutic level should not be notified as a positive.**
- The industry cannot afford to feed certified organic meat and kibble.**
- This will stop innocent people from being prosecuted and vilified .**
- Major Races should be notified that samples will be kept in storage as new analytic techniques are available.**

**Just because we have the technology to pick up levels down to billionth per ml doesn't mean we should not put the level into the right context.**

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**General Industry Comments.**

- Training . for consistent racing**

**As sighthounds they chase on sight but this is backed up by sound, smell, and reward.**

- With the barring of natural fibre and meat as a reward I think the chasing drive and the consistency of the racing has diminished. i can't think why a natural reward system. (killed rabbits) cannot be incorporated.**
- It costs so much money to rear a greyhound to racing age I think this training option should be available to trainers for greyhounds who are anti synthetic.**

**Dr Peter Yore**