



MEETING	Advisory Committee
DATE	25 September 2008
TITLE	DEFRA Working Group to develop new regulations for the greyhound racing industry
CLASSIFICATION	Unclassified
SUMMARY	In July, Defra set up a working group to assist in the development of new regulations for the greyhound racing industry. RCVS was invited to nominate a representative to sit on the working group. Officers were keen to support the working group and nominated Mrs Jacqui Molyneux who kindly agreed to accept the role. Advisory Committee is asked to note Mrs Molyneux's report of the meeting she attended on 2 September 2008.
DECISIONS REQUIRED	NONE – FOR REPORT
ATTACHMENTS	NONE
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ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

**NOTE OF MEETING HELD AT DEFRA ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2008
ATTENDED BY MRS JACQUI MOLYNEUX ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF
REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY**

1. The purpose of the group is to introduce regulations that will cover all tracks currently operating in the UK – both those that are licensed by the NGRC (approx 30) and those that are not (6 in England, 2 in Wales and 5 in Scotland I believe). I have 10 years experience as a track vet at Newcastle (a licensed track). The group's remit is to consider greyhound welfare rather than integrity of racing.
2. All the licensed tracks are already obliged to have a vet present during racing and the extension of this obligation to the unlicensed tracks the major central proposal being considered by DEFRA. There was unanimous support for this from the group.
3. There were then lengthy discussions regarding facilities to be provided, duties of the vet, record keeping, identification of dogs (as related to follow up for welfare issues), kennelling facilities, drug testing and enforcement. Some areas showed general agreement between all parties whilst others are more controversial. DEFRA is keen not to impose a level of regulations that will inevitably lead to the closure of all the unlicensed tracks, although it was accepted that there will inevitably be one or two casualties. There was a general feeling that the absolute requirements should be kept to a minimum with a further list of desirable features provided as an addendum
4. Good progress was made at the meeting. A second meeting is scheduled for Sep 25th and it is expected that this will conclude these discussions.

Mrs Jacqui Molyneux
16.9.08