



GBGB Standard Operating Procedure for Disease Response & Control

1 Scope

The disease response and control SOP sets out the processes for dealing with disease at a GBGB-licenced residential kennels. It covers initial reporting, sampling, kennel visits, monitoring, distribution of information and responsibilities. The SOP is linked with the Sudden Death Survey as it uses similar reporting routes.

2 Objective

The aim is to prevent the spread of disease by using standard methods applied before a diagnosis has been made. The decision-making requires veterinary input to assess the risks based on the clinical signs, data from a questionnaire and local knowledge of disease. The information gained from previous disease patterns and results may have a bearing on the decisions, and as such the SOP does not address all situations since each one will have individual variations to be taken into account.

3 Key Staff

Each disease problem is unique, even when dealing with the same disease. As such evidence and risk are taken into account when deciding on a particular set of actions. The Key Staff involved in the decision-making are:

- Chief Executive Officer;
- Veterinary Director;
- Director of Regulation;
- Manager of Welfare and Integrity Services;
- Senior Stipendiary Steward;
- Sudden Death Survey Manager;
- Veterinary Sub Committee.

4 Initial Reporting

The initial reporting of disease by the licenced trainer can be made by several routes:

- Racing office;
- Local Stipendiary steward;

- GBGB;
- Sudden Death Survey.

Each of these routes should report to the Sudden Death Survey Manager, who then coordinates the responses. The Sudden Death Survey Manager will keep Key Staff up-to-date on current contact methods, which are then passed to the Racing Offices and the Local Stipendiary Stewards by established routes of communication.

5 Responses

5.1 Spread of Information

All cases must be reported to the Key Staff by the Sudden Death Survey Manager.

Basic information needed:

- Trainer identity;
- Likelihood of spread;
- Deaths;
- Review dates;
- Impact of disease on trainer.

5.2 Collecting Information from Trainer

The trainer should be contacted as soon as possible and basic information taken according to the kennel disease questionnaire. This is normally performed by the Sudden Death Survey Manager.

5.3 Isolation

The degree of isolation depends on an assessment of the risk of spread. Initially the trainer is advised to cease all movements off the premises. The next immediate action by the Sudden Death Survey Manager is to consult with Key Staff after which specific advices can be made, viz:

- If isolation facilities are available, the diseased and in-contact greyhounds should be placed in isolation for a minimum of seven days.
- If isolation facilities are not available, the entire kennel should be closed for a minimum of seven days. This will need specific permission and action from the Director of Regulation.

5.4 Informing Racing Offices

5.4.1 Immediate Withdrawals

Where the isolation affects greyhounds either attached to a stadium, or booked in to a race or trial, the Director of Regulation shall notify the relevant Racing Offices as soon as possible that the isolated greyhounds are being withdrawn.

5.4.2 Future Provision of Greyhounds

Where the trainer's ability to meet his commitment to a stadium's racing strength might be affected, the Racing Offices need to be made aware by the Director of Regulation of a possible reduction in racing strength.

5.5 Visit by Local Stipendiary Steward

To assess biosecurity and the use of isolation, the Local Stipendiary Steward should be tasked to visit the kennels within three days of the first report. They should be able to report on:

- General condition of the kennel and the greyhounds;
- Use of biosecurity and whether cleansing & disinfection has been planned;
- Use of isolation kennels;
- Whether the movement book is up to date.

5.6 Liaise with Local Veterinary Surgeons

The trainer's local veterinary surgeon should be contacted by either the Veterinary Director or the Sudden Death Survey Manager and be informed of the investigation. Brief details should be made of:

- Disease type;
- Treatments administered or advised;
- Ability to visit kennels for sampling.

5.7 Arrange Samples

Samples are required to investigate the disease. These may take the form of either a post mortem examination, or blood samples/swabs.

5.7.1 Post Mortem Examination

The standard sudden death protocol should be followed where there has been a death.

5.7.2 In-Contact Sampling

Where it is deemed necessary by consultation with Key Staff, the usual veterinary surgeon can be tasked with taking samples from the nearest in-contacts. The number to be sampled is calculated by:

- First ten greyhounds;
- Plus further 10%.

The samples taken are those advised according to the disease type, and are normally to be sent to a laboratory which already has links with the GBGB to facilitate communication and billing. The Sudden Death Survey Manager will maintain a list of participating laboratories. **Where follow-up sampling is required, it should be noted that this may extend the isolation period whilst laboratory results are pending.**

6 Managing the Disease

6.1 Stipendiary Stewards

Information updates are to be passed between the Local Stipendiary Steward and the Sudden Death Survey Manager to maintain awareness of the progress of a disease. The Local Stipendiary Stewards may be required to re-visit the kennels based on consultations with Key Staff.

6.2 Further Cases

Should further cases arise, the isolation time is renewed to seven days. Key staff must be involved in this decision. The Sudden Death Survey Manager should maintain communication with the case veterinary surgeon(s).

6.3 Communications

The Key Staff are to be kept apprised of the progress of a disease by communications from the Sudden Death Survey Manager.

6.4 Press Office

Acting on advice from the Veterinary Director and the Director of Regulation, the Press Office may need to inform the racing media of the disease and the control procedures. This applies whether in response to public enquiries or after advice from other Key Staff.

7 Results

All results are confidential, and should be passed to Key Staff along with an interpretation.

The trainer should be contacted by either the Veterinary Director or the Sudden Death Survey Manager with an interpretation of the results and a discussion of further actions to be taken.

After consultation with Key Staff, the information may also be passed to the attending veterinary surgeon(s) to enable treatment of in-contacts with appropriate medications.

8 Releasing Restrictions

Once the isolation time has expired, the Veterinary Director or the Sudden Death Survey Manager should contact the trainer and discuss the disease situation. The Key Staff should then be consulted. After agreement to lift restrictions, the trainer is contacted again and the restrictions lifted.

The Key Staff should be informed of the lifting of restrictions and of any special advices given to the trainer.

The relevant Racing Offices should be informed by the Director of Regulation.

Where follow-up sampling has been performed, it should be noted that this may extend the isolation period whilst laboratory results are pending.

9 Further Monitoring

Normally no specific post-isolation monitoring is required. The data gathered is incorporated into the Sudden Death Survey database.

10 Holiday Periods

Public and private holidays have the potential for temporarily removing GBGB Officers and Employees. This should be anticipated and suitable deputies arranged, whether within the Key Staff group, or from other GBGB Officers or Employees. A deputy must be familiar with this SOP. The aim is to provide a continuous service and proper functioning of this SOP.

11 Related Documentation

- GBGB Disease Control Protocol.
- Questionnaire for Kennel Disease.
- GBGB Sudden Death Protocol.

12 Distribution List

- Key Staff.
- Local Stipendiary Stewards.

13 Responsibilities

13.1 Author

- Submit drafts and revisions as requested or as needs dictate;
- Maintain a distribution list and ensure that all parties have an in-date SOP.

13.2 Reviewer

- Provide feedback and any necessary corrections.