



Submission Paper

July 9 2019

Irish Coursing Club, CEO: DJ Histon, Davis Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Attention of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine:

IRISH COURSING CLUB response to RTE Prime Time programme and steps required to restore confidence in the industry

1. Introduction

At the outset, the ICC wish to state clearly that it does not condone any acts of greyhound cruelty as highlighted on the Prime Time Investigates programme. The images shown on the programme have jolted the industry and the participants in the industry want to see change to eradicate such actions in the future. While time could be spent analysing and explaining elements of the programme it is more important to focus on what needs to be done to ensure the continued viability of the industry with the greyhound as the primary focus.

2. The ICC was established in 1916 (*reconstituted under the Greyhound Industry Act 1958*) and is responsible for the regulation of coursing in Ireland. It is the Keeper of the All Ireland Irish Greyhound Stud which was first published in 1923. It publishes the sole greyhound weekly paper under the “sporting press” title (*renamed in 1952*), it regulates greyhound racing in Northern Ireland (*the Brandywell in Derry and Drumbo Park in Belfast*). It operates one of four DAFM approved microchipping databases under the name of MicrodogID.

3. Following a review of the programme, the following areas require change and enhancement to restore general public confidence and to maintain the confidence of greyhound people and stakeholders within the industry:

- (i) the issue of traceability
- (ii) the export of greyhounds to other jurisdictions with no welfare regulations
- (iii) Whiddy Island footage clarification
- (iv) Prohibited substance testing in coursing
- (v) rehoming of greyhounds as they transition from performance to retirement

NEXT STEPS:

4. Traceability

The introduction of a traceability system for the greyhound industry will ensure that real time accurate information will exist for all categories of greyhounds as they progress through their lifecycle. This will mean that at any one time, the industry will know the number of live registered pups, the number of live registered named greyhounds, the number of live greyhounds registered for track racing and coursing, the number sold in Ireland and to other jurisdictions, the number euthanised by a vet and the number rehomed through various rehoming bodies and number retained as pets. The system will also categorise the number of brood bitches by establishing a brood bitch register, which will require an inspection of the breeding facility prior to breeding. A person will have to register as an owner prior to registering a greyhound. The owner will be given a unique ID to link all greyhounds in his ownership and to track movement of his greyhounds during their Lifecycle.

4.1 A traceability system must be executed on an All-Ireland basis given that the majority of greyhounds move freely both in the North and the South, in terms of competition and breeding. It must also link in with the Greyhound Board of Great Britain's system given the close relationship between both jurisdictions. This will ensure a single greyhound system with the co-operation of the GBGB. A review of traceability systems in the UK and greyhound racing states in Australia, such as Victoria and New South Wales is on-going currently. A meeting is scheduled with the GBGB this month and this topic will be on the agenda. This will ensure the model adopted in Ireland is effective and complete.

4.2 The establishment of an Anglo- Irish committee to keep matters of integrity and welfare under review.

5. Export of Greyhounds Via the Uk For Forwarding to Other Countries With No Welfare Standards, Structured Around Strong Legislation

The export of greyhounds to countries with no welfare regulations is not illegal per se but we can work with the GBGB to assist them on implementing the GBGB policy on such exports which states, "Involvement in the export of greyhounds to jurisdictions where welfare standards cannot be verified is not acceptable and GBGB will employ the full powers available to it to prohibit individuals from deliberately undermining the good reputation of licenced greyhound racing in Great Britain".

5.1 In order to monitor the movement of greyhounds to other jurisdictions, the following procedure to be agreed, as movements of greyhounds to other jurisdictions mainly flow through the UK in the first instance:

- Seller must receive export permit and provide the necessary information on end destination and reason for export etc:
- New owner must include owner code allotted by GBGB on transfer notification form.

- ICC notify GBGB of movement to the UK registered owner.
- GBGB to mirror ICC export system.
- If greyhound is found to be located in another jurisdiction following arrival in UK, then the GBGB can sanction that individual.

6. *Whiddy Island Footage portrayed as illegal on Prime- Time programme.*

By way of background, the ICC regulates coursing and clubs operate under the Open Seasons Order 2005 in terms of legitimacy to course at “regulated coursing matches”.

Clubs listed on the licence schedule are authorised to net and tag hares for the purposes of coursing, while the Open Seasons Order 2005 permits coursing in general during a defined period.

Coursing Clubs comprise the following membership/affiliation;

1. Park Clubs (*require netting and tagging licence*)- all greyhounds muzzled.
1. Open Coursing Clubs: Affiliated and are listed on the Licence Schedule- all greyhounds muzzled.
3. Associate Open Coursing Clubs (*are not listed on Licence scheduled*) -all greyhounds muzzled.

The membership type distinction between Affiliated and Associative Affiliation is the latter does not attract voting rights at ICC Provincial AGMs or at the ICC National AGM. All clubs pay insurance premium and affiliation fee to ICC regardless of membership type.

6.1 Bantry Open Coursing Club (*paid insurance and affiliation fee on October 9 2018 for last season*) is one of 19 Associative Clubs and was established in 1950. The club has coursed on Whiddy Island since that time and they would offer that is why the Island has such a strong hare population unlike Bull Island which is often referred to as having no hares on the island anymore.

6.2 Associative Clubs typically course on Sundays (*with landowner permission*) and organise small events (*mostly four dog events with the odd eight dog or so events*) with token prize-money and trophy. Associative coursing is the foundation of coursing prior to evolving into what we have today in terms of Park Coursing.

6.3 The Associative clubs operate under the Open Seasons Order 2005, the same way as a pack of beagles or harriers or someone shooting the hare: they do not require a licence with the proviso they observe the period specified in the Order i.e. September 26 to February 28.

6.4. The ICC promote hare care and greyhound care as per Code of Practice (appendix 1).

6.5 Illegal hunting is where packs of unmuzzled dogs hunt with the express purpose of killing the hare. It is indiscriminate in nature and occurs on a 12 -month basis. This illegal activity is conducted without landowner permission, often involves intimidation and threats to landowners and often results in assaults. The ICC are working with the Gardaí, NPWS and the IFA on this issue.

7. Prohibited Substance Testing in coursing (appendix 2).

The ICC adopted Rule 88 to deal specifically with prohibited drug breaches after reviewing all other racing jurisdictions. It extended its testing regime to include all provincial coursing meetings. Over the last three years 679 tests were taken, with 633 negative and 11 positives.

7.1 The purpose of testing and the associated penalties is to:

- (i) protect the welfare of the greyhound
- (ii) protect the integrity of coursing
- (iii) maintain public confidence in coursing
- (iv) maintain proper standards for all coursing participants
- (v) to bring about a positive behavioural change
- (vi) a sanction may be accompanied by an advisory notice to point out what changes in behaviour or attitude is required.

7.2 Adverse Analytical Finding: Once a positive test is notified to the ICC, the greyhound is suspended immediately until the conclusion of the hearing before the Independent Hearing Committee. The minimum mandatory fine range is €1000 to €3000 depending on the substance categorisation. The independent hearing committee has discretion to increase a fine by a further €7500 and fix the hearing costs against the transgressor. The minimum mandatory suspension range is three months to five months to be served during a coursing season. This can be extended to six months by the hearing committee. In the event of the fine remaining unpaid, then that person is placed on the forfeit list, whereby they cannot attend a coursing event or register or transfer a greyhound. A further amendment will be placed before the ICC AGM to debar a greyhound found in breach of Rule 88 from competing in any coursing classic event.

8. Rehoming of greyhounds:

The ICC currently provides administrative support to welfare bodies in terms of registration and microchipping services. It proposes to work with its membership and rehoming bodies to promote the homing of ex-coursing greyhounds. Owners currently adopt privately or through the IRGT and this can be expanded on further by working in tandem with the announced changes. The implementation of levies to be ring fenced in support of rehoming efforts and building on the existing structure is necessary to fund this strategy. Economies can be achieved by developing a central structure that can be leveraged appropriately.

8.1 The industry incorporates both track and coursing, therefore all greyhounds are equal in terms of industry responsibility and all opportunities should be open to either code by way of setting up a structure where the ICC contribute appropriately.

9. Conclusion: A paradigm shift is taking place and it is important not to react but to act in a responsible way to ensure the changes implemented consolidate the industry on every level while keeping the greyhound to the fore. The industry relies on a significant voluntary effort across both codes, with each owner sharing the responsibility of caring for their greyhounds. It is the industry regulators function to be accountable for implementing and policing the rules, policies and procedures on behalf of all industry participants.

The ICC consider it critical that engagement with the IGB and the GBGB in promoting joined up thinking in a cohesive manner for the sustainability and betterment of the industry as a whole is appropriate.

Thank you for your time Chairman and fellow committee members.

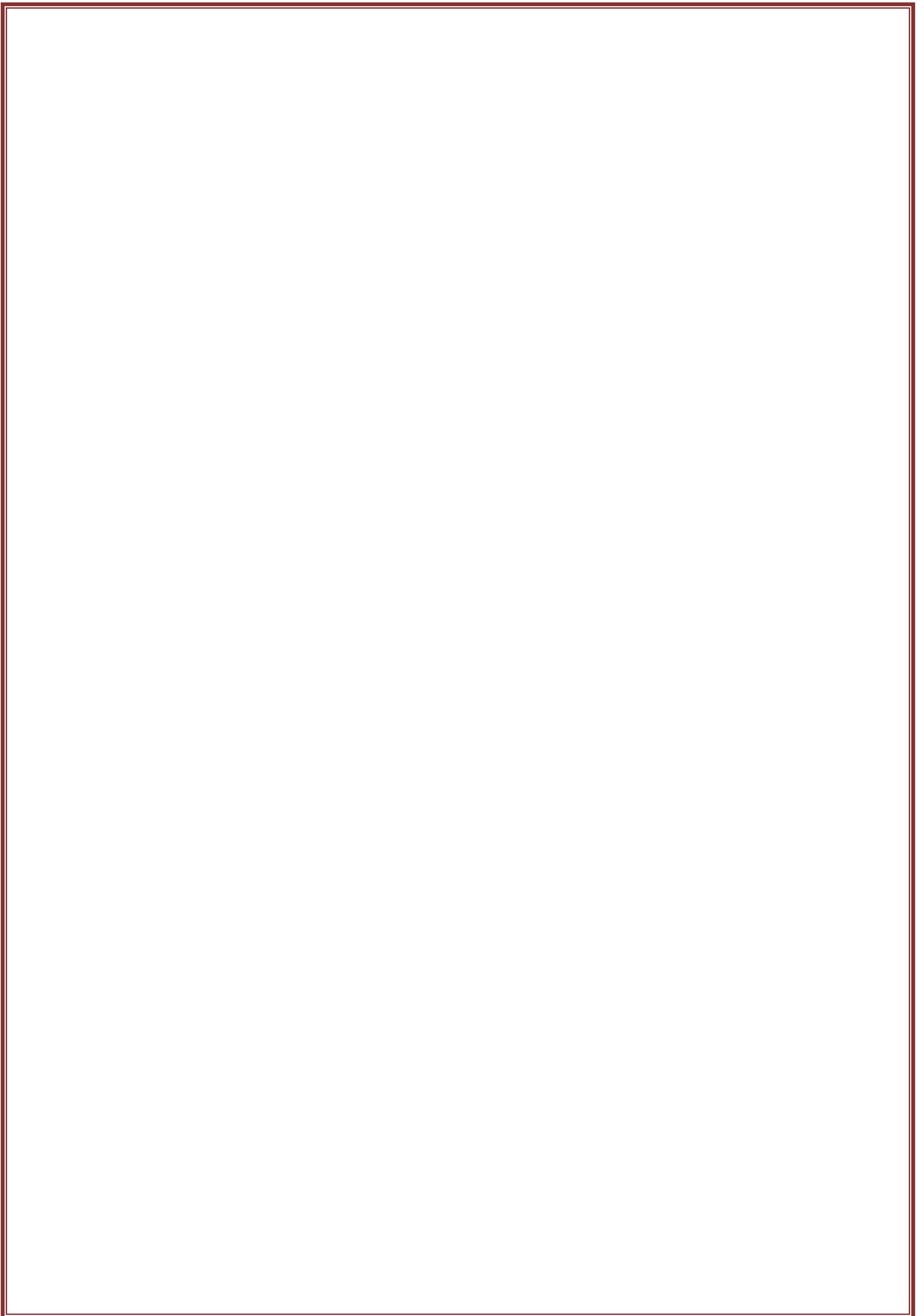
IRISH COURSING CLUB

CODE of PRACTICE

for

Hare & Greyhound Welfare

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Amended 2018



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Introduction

This Coursing Code of Practice is being released at a special and fitting moment in the history of coursing in Ireland: 2016 is its 100th anniversary as the controlling authority of regulated coursing and holder of the Irish greyhound stud book. It sets out how we can best care for the hare by adopting practical and effective procedures that put the hare at the centre of everything we do. It is captivating and exhilarating to witness a healthy, robust hare outwitting two muzzled greyhounds who may win the battle of size but are well challenged by the agility and wit of our Irish Hare.

Coursing is all about the hare, a remarkable work of nature and one of the most successful prey species in the world. The hare has survived over thousands of years because of two important traits that work hand-in-hand: its ability to adapt to a changing environment and its ability to elude predators. With this in mind, those charged with the regulation and promotion of coursing as well as those participating in it must do everything possible to ensure this remarkable animal continues to be part of the Irish countryside.

Since our first hare seminar in 2009, we have seen many positive changes within our coursing community, perhaps the most notable are improvements in hare husbandry, bringing it to a level that has never been reached before. This new standard of care and training for the hare, and the outstanding turnout of coursing greyhounds this year, bodes well for our future.

I thank so very many people who make up the community of coursing enthusiasts throughout Ireland. They have been tirelessly and voluntarily working over the years in so many countless ways, and create a community spirit that is rare in Ireland today. The list of these people is too long to individually name, but their combined cooperation are what makes regulated coursing possible, and will continue to do so into the future. Particular thanks to Lindsey Edwards MVB for her veterinary advice, and to Yvonne Harrington for her excellent photographs.

DJ Histon
CEO/Secretary, Irish Coursing Club
September 2016

PART I: The Hare



1. Knowing Our Irish Hare

Reading this section is just as important as any other section in this Code of Practice. Here, we provide you with information such as who monitors park coursing, EU directives, and even what your responsibilities are. We also tell you a little bit about the Irish Hare itself and threats to its existence. We want everyone in coursing to be “on the same page” by having the same information.

Coursing has been taking place in Ireland under the National Coursing Club Rules of the UK prior to 1916, and under the rules and regulations of the Irish Coursing Club thereafter. Coursing has evolved over the past century and continues to do so. How we net, care for, handle and release the hares in our care is governed by ICC rules in tandem with licensing conditions as issued by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. Coursing is supervised by the National Parks & Wildlife Service and monitored by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It is also important for all members to know the Government’s responsibilities towards the Irish Hare and the lengths it has gone to in order to fulfil these responsibilities

For All Irish Coursing Club member clubs and individual members, it is essential to abide by all rules and regulations relating to the hare. It is important to know that violations of these conditions by just one person puts all coursing clubs at risk. And each step involved in hare husbandry, from the first act of netting to the final act of release after the meeting and everything in between is vital. One shortfall in any of the steps will impact on the overall quality of the hare and the success of your meeting. It almost goes without saying that any actions taken by members which are considered illegal or cruel will affect the entire sport and will be dealt with in the strongest possible terms.

The rules for coursing are lengthy and at times complex, and are only a part of a larger set of rules and regulations of the Irish Coursing Club, which has several additional responsibilities as well. They are found within a large 8-part document; Part 6 deals exclusively with coursing itself, and it is lengthy. It includes 45 rule categories, 4 appendices, and a separate set of betting rules. The 45 rules cover anything from the dimensions of the coursing field to the acceptance of entries, from the principles of judging to determining penalties. For a full copy of the rules, contact the ICC or go to <http://irishcoursingclub.ie/rules-regulations/>.

The Irish Hare/Giorria na hEireann (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) is Ireland’s own distinct subspecies of the Mountain Hare, and can be traced back to at least 28,000 years ago and even more. It can be found in upland and lowland areas as well as agricultural, pastoral, and arable landscapes in general as well as coastal sand dunes. Importantly, the Irish Hare has been legally protected since 1930 in the Republic of

Ireland, initially under the 1930 Game Preservation Act, and more recently by the 1976 Wildlife Act and Wildlife (Amendment) Act from 2000.

The Irish Government also has the responsibility to report on the Irish Hare's status to the European Union's *Habitats Directive*. An independent environmental research unit from Queen's University in Belfast, *Quercus*, was engaged to undertake a survey for the National Parks & Wildlife Service in 2007. They were to report on the current and previous status of hares and to make recommendations for monitoring them. Their report was to include estimates of current distribution and density of hares according to land class and geographic region. It also was to forward ideas on future monitoring on the conservation status of the Irish Hare and report on the status of the Brown Hare in Ireland as well. It is well known that the Brown Hare often takes over Irish Hare habitats, as has been evidenced in mid-Ulster.

The results of the Quercus study estimated the hare population in the Republic of Ireland to be 535,000, and if Northern Ireland is included, then the estimated total population is 649,000. The Quercus conclusions show the Irish Hare to be widespread. If we take the first figure and divide up among 26 counties, this averages out to more than 20,000 hares per county. Of course, in reality some counties will have more and others will have less, but this gives an idea of how numerous they are. It was also the first study to publish long-term population trends and other important details, such as estimates of current and recent density, as well as changes in population density throughout a single year and throughout several years.

Because the Irish Hare has now been officially declared to have "intrinsic value", this status led to the formulation of an Irish Hare All Ireland Species Action Plan (SAP). The aim of the SAP is to preserve the existing range of Irish Hare, support population increase, and either maintain or increase the area and quality of suitable hare habitat. This is important for ICC members to know since the level of hare husbandry expertise that is thriving and growing among all the individual coursing clubs significantly improves the continued survival of the Irish Hare.

The EU Habitats Directive mentioned above exists in conjunction with this since their main aim is to achieve and maintain favourable conservation status for habitats and species considered at risk. The results of their 2007 survey are reported under individual headings, and determining status is not straightforward. If an "unfavourable" result is determined in any one area, then the overall result must be reported as "unfavourable". This ensures a clear focus is kept on a particular species. The following results from the 2007 survey are reported as follows:

- *RANGE (Favourable): this measures the prevalence of the hare in all areas. It is stable and not smaller than the favourable reference range;*
- *POPULATION (Unknown): Irish Hare numbers can fluctuate and the reasons are poorly understood. Given the extent of inter annual fluctuations it is not possible to identify a specific favourable reference value for population.*
- *HABITAT (Unfavourable): The Irish Hare occurs in several habitats throughout Ireland. Although there are still sufficient habitats available, some reduction in the extent and quality of hare habitats has occurred in recent decades.*
- *FUTURE PROSPECTS (Favourable): Despite the negative assessment of habitat, the future prospects of the hare in Ireland are considered positive.*

Overall, when these results are combined with the Quercus study, the Irish Hare seems to be managing well in the midst of illegal hunting and loss of habitat through urban sprawl. This is especially so considering Quercus found that there are 18 times more hares in areas where there are active regulated coursing clubs. We can only hope for the same five and ten years from now.

2. Netting and Transport

There are several aspects to netting, all of them related to each other. Besides actually netting the hare in the field, there is also a brief field examination and assessment of the hare, transporting the hare to the hare park following netting, preventing any possible stress, and making sure all licensing regulations are followed.

Netting

Netting is the practice employed by coursing clubs as the most efficient manner to capture hare. The use of nets has been taking place for thousands of years because it was most effective in terms of safety. When the net is used for catching hare, it gives way upon the impact of the hare and allows the safe retrieval of the hare by the “net man”. On impact the hare forms a pocket in the net and it collapses simultaneously.



It is highly important to act swiftly and to carefully remove the hare by supporting his head and body. A set net should NEVER be left unattended.

When setting the net, it should not be set in a taut fashion, but with sufficient slack to ensure the light sticks (these are set on the same side as the hare is going to enter the net) supporting the

centre and sides of the net will give way when the hare enters the net. It is important the nets are always set in safe areas and with special consideration for livestock and other animals that may be in the vicinity. This is one of the 26 conditions set out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service that permit netting to take place.

Licence condition No. 6 clearly states:

“ the nets shall not be placed or operated in a place or in such a way as to endanger farm or domestic animals or other species for which they are not intended.”

The most appropriate material to make nets should be a *non-nylon* material. Only members who are appropriately trained shall be allowed to operate the nets.

Expertise in this area is passed down from generation to generation and is the first point of contact with the hare from the clubs perspective.

Field Examination and Assessment

Hares that are netted shall be removed quickly and examined in order to determine their suitability for coursing. Not every hare netted is suitable for coursing, as is highlighted by licence condition No. 10, which is very clear about this:



“sick, injured or pregnant hares shall not be taken under the licence” and therefore following examination, if any of these conditions are present, then the hare shall be released immediately (treatment may be administered where necessary).”

When examining a hare’s status, the first consideration is the method of holding it. Correct holding is important to facilitate an initial examination, *especially to see if it is pregnant or lactating*. When holding the hare, apply your hand to the flank by using the palm of your hand only. *Do not hold by the skin or the muscle or the hind legs under any circumstances*. It is appropriate to use the other hand to hold the ears. This will



settle the hare for examination and they remain relaxed under this method. Checks that the hare is not a nursing hare by examining the underbelly for teats or signs of milk being produced. You can also check the underbelly for signs of extra weight or two strands of hardened-like muscle. If these signs are present, release her back to the countryside immediately, as she will be rearing leverets or about to give birth.

Each foot must also be examined for toe injuries and minor abrasions. Hare found with more substantial injuries or illness are to be kept and treated following veterinary advice.

Transport

During the netting process, including examination and transport, the hare must be handled with particular care and all effort must be made for its welfare. For example, hares should be transported in bespoke boxes that provide sufficient room for the hare to turn around and with openings to allow for ventilation. It is just as important not to overstock hare boxes during transport in order to prevent overheating, which can lead to illness.

Make sure the box is secured for transporting to the hare park and that the vehicle is driven at a safe speed to ensure a smooth journey (dependent on road condition). If a club are netting for a long period of time it is always best to dispatch hares back to the hare park on a periodic basis throughout the day or part of the day as opposed to waiting for the day's netting to be complete.

Boxes must not be stacked or covered with nets or other items which restrict air flow at any time.



The size of box should be *at least* 13" by 13". This allows the hare sufficient room to rest and turn if necessary. This promotes proper ventilation and prevents overheating, particularly during hot or wet weather. The larger compartmentalised boxes should contain no more than two hares. It is always advisable to have some larger boxes on hand to accommodate unusually large hares.

Relevant Licensing Conditions At this stage there are several other licensing conditions which apply. The most relevant ones to be aware of at this stage are 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22. Here we provide these 5 conditions below for you in full (for all the conditions, see Appendix Part I):

17. This Licence covers the capturing of hares in the State. Any club capturing hares outside of this jurisdiction for the purposes of hare coursing or trialling inside the jurisdiction must be able to produce the relevant licenses/authorisation from the appropriate state authorities concerned.

19. *The removal from this jurisdiction of hares captured in this jurisdiction under the terms of this licence is strictly prohibited.*

20. *In all matters relating to the capture, keeping in captivity, tagging, marking, coursing, trialling, training and release of hares, and the muzzling of greyhounds, there shall be full compliance with the Directives, Instructions and Guidance Notes issued by the Executive Committee of the Irish Coursing Club.*

21. *Any person involved in the capturing of hares must have a written certificate, signed by the Club Secretary or the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club, certifying that the named bearer is a member of a Club affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club and that the certificate must be produced on request to a member of the Garda Síochana or an Authorised Person appointed by the Minister under Section 72 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended).*

22. *The Licensee, the Coursing Clubs affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club and the Members of such clubs must comply with Section 44 of the Wildlife Acts and must obtain the permission, either of the person who is the owner or the occupier of the land or, in cases where some other person is entitled to enjoy sporting rights over the land, that other person, prior to entering on any land for the purpose of hunting or catching hares.*



3. Examination and Treatment

This section concerns the very important stage of the hare's treatment and handling while in the care of individual coursing clubs. How they experience these weeks out of their wildlife habitat affects their performance in the coursing field. It also affects how they will manage in the wild when they are released again. Great attention needs to be paid at each step, since to do less creates a chain of problems.

Examining the Hare

When examining the health status of a hare, how you hold it is the first consideration. Just like the netted hares were examined when first caught out in the fields, they should be examined again, after transport and before release into the hare park. This ensures compliance with licence condition No. 10. Each hare should first be checked to see if any are pregnant or lactating. Then each foot is to be examined for toe injuries and minor abrasions. If any injuries are found at this point where they were not detected immediately after netting, they are to be treated, no matter if the hare is suitable for coursing or not.

Tagging

Tagging is required and is very straightforward. Four things you need to know:

- *All hares to be tagged to ensure the location of capture is recorded.*
- *Tags should be affixed to centre of ear (approximately the width of a thumb down from the top of the ear).*
- *Fix tag to ear tagging applicator and apply some Fucidin ointment to tag prior to insertion. Make sure to avoid any blood vessels in the ear.*
- *Hares can be tagged from within the box, in a way similar to dosing, as this reduces the need for additional handling.*



It is worth stressing one more time that by applying the tag at the point of the width of your thumb from the top of the ear, you will avoid blood vessels. *The more you move down to the wider part of the ear, the more likely you will meet blood vessels.*

Dosing and Treatments

The most common conditions applicable to hares are coccidiosis, worms, small wounds, and minor foot problems. All are simple enough to treat and ensure that you return a hare to the wild in a healthier condition than when they were netted.

Coccidiosis

There are many strains of Coccidiosis, and every hare carries a low level of it. This level spikes when the risk of disease is increased during times of bad weather or diet change. It is important to continually check hare droppings for this disease. If droppings are runny in nature and possibly bloody, then engage your vet to begin treatment immediately. This disease is the cause of up to one third of natural deaths in the wild. It is highly infectious and fatal if left untreated. However, it can be treated with **Baycox Bovis** and is given orally via the mouth.

The hare should be left in the box for dosing as there is less chance of the hare moving, creating stress and avoiding treatment. Place the dosing syringe at the side of the mouth, or at the side of the hare's front teeth, and gently release the



medication. The hare generally will start to drink the liquid slowly until treatment is complete. *Do not push syringe into the mouth and release in one shot.*

Generally, **Baycox Bovis** is given on Day One to limit introduction into the hare park and then repeated periodically to prevent possible outbreaks. Dose volume and frequency may be adjusted *on veterinary advice* if any clinical signs are detected and if coccidiosis can be confirmed on faecal examination.

For coccidiosis, it is also advisable to treat the drinking water with Sulphadimidine powder. This comes in sachets and each 25g is to be diluted in 5 gallons of water. The water is to be changed daily. The treatment is to be given three consecutive days (72 hours) on and three consecutive days off. On the off days, fresh water is to be provided for 3 days before the Sulphadimidine powder is repeated. This can be repeated throughout the period up to the time of their release. Proper record keeping is important to ensure the dosing regime is adhered to.

Worms

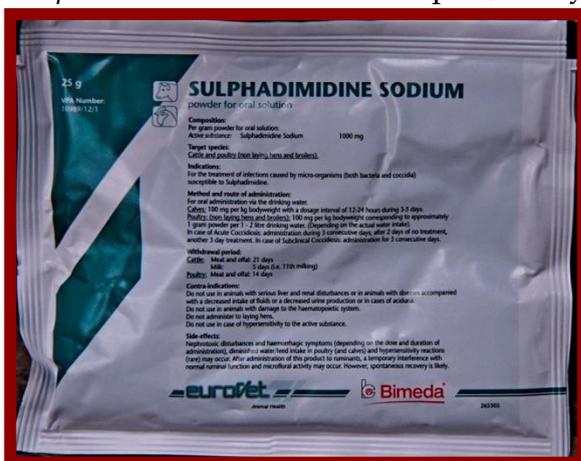
Very common in all forms of wildlife, they rob an animal of basic nutrients found in the food supply and affect their energy levels, ability to recover from even small wounds and resistance to disease and infection. Hares can be treated for worms with the type of Fenbendazole which is a “plain” dose with no added copper or selenium or fluke dose. You can give it in exact same manner as you do Baycox Bovis.

However, *do not mix the two doses as they tend to crystallise in the syringe.*

Small wounds and infections

These are also very common and very easily treated. If they are not treated, then a small problem can quickly become a larger one. If you notice any wounds or infections, including respiratory problems, then treat with an antibiotic such as Baytril under veterinary supervision. This is available in either oral or injectable form, depending on club preference. Dose on Day One and at all points thereafter if any signs of infection or illness are evident.

Sulphadimidine can also be helpful, and you can use it the same way as you do for



coccidiosis. *Fucidin ointment* also can be applied to small wounds and grazes because it not only coats the wound but also is an antibiotic and antiseptic. Consult a veterinarian if clarification is required.

Foot Care

To prevent foot issues and ensure foot care, the hare park should have a number of foot baths where hare traffic is

prevalent. The footbath should be lined with a sponge which is dosed with a liquid solution of copper sulphate (bluestone).

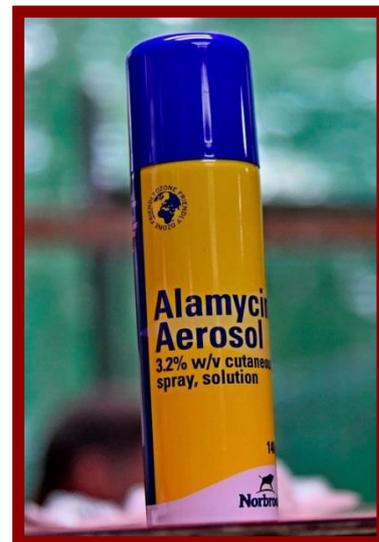
This assists with keeping the feet healthy and acts as non-invasive treatment of



minor abrasions.

However, it is important ***not to use lincocin antibiotic footbath*** because it is associated with fatal enterotoxaemia if a hare drinks from it. Here, the risk greatly outweighs any possible increased benefit.

Alamycin spray is useful for any foot issues, particularly between the toes and under the feet to reduce risk of infection at the time of entering the hare park. Each toe and between each toe should be carefully examined. If cuts or grazes are found, apply a foot spray such as Alamycin and ensure you cover all of the area by applying from the sides and under the area concerned. Following spraying of the feet, leave hare to rest in the hare box to ensure the spray has dried. If this precaution is not taken, then it otherwise will wash off immediately when the hare reaches wet grass. In addition, the use of footbaths in the hare park ensure continued treatment is applied as the hare should pass through this area a number of times daily.



4. Hare Park: Release and Layout

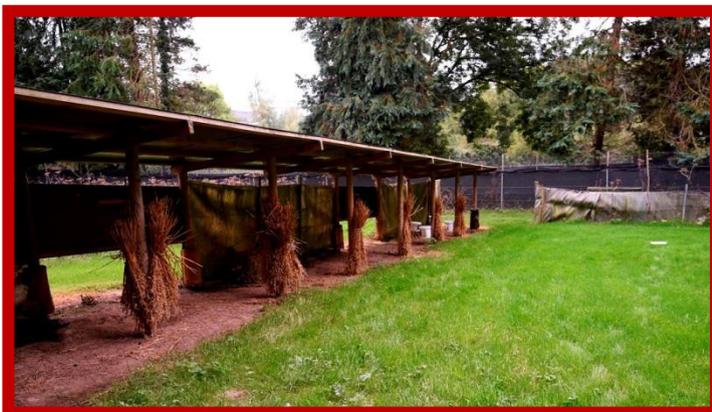
Releasing into Hare Park

Hares should be released into the hare park during daylight hours. Ensure there are no obstacles in the path of the hare upon release; for example, remove any large sallows. All feeding should be completed prior to releasing fresh hares into the park to minimise disruption. Ideally, they should be released direct from a hare box at the entrance of the park, one at a time. Ensure the box is positioned so it is facing open ground and not towards the feeding shed, shelter or any other obstacle.

Hare Park Layout (*general*)

The hare park should be sufficient in size to accommodate number of hares required for the meeting. Ideally, split hare park into sections of less than 50 hares per group to minimise bullying and to ensure access to feeding space. Fill one section first and then start second group on clean ground. Rotation across grazing/playground space throughout the day is recommended.

No matter the size, however, the park should always be divided as per licence condition No. 9, which requires that we *clearly separate coursed hare from non-coursed hare*. The design of the hare park needs to be thought through ahead of time so it can efficiently direct hares to the back run that leads to the boxing shed. This is covered in much more detail in Chapter 6.



The feeding area should be positioned nearest to the entry gate, as the hares will retreat to the furthest away point with ease when club members enter to prepare for feeding. The hares will automatically drift back to the feeding area when club members have completed the

feeding regime and left the feeding area. It is important that the park should have various plant overgrowth all around its perimeter to ensure hare have a sufficient sense of cover.

Shelters should be provided to accommodate the numbers of hare. These shelters also must be set up in the non-feeding area. They can be made of bales of straw so as to mimic a ditch or cover in the wild. It is recommended that a screen(s) made of canvas is erected in the hare park, providing shelter from wind and rain and also serving as a retreat for the hare when feeding is taking place.



During the off season it is important to cut the park bare and to heavily treat it with hydrated lime. This will ensure killing all the bacteria and allows the sunlight to directly hit the ground which has a similar effect. This is so that the hare park begins the next season in a hygienic condition. It is important to wear appropriate protective clothing.

Lay-out of Run-up & Playground

Once hares are in the park, they are no longer needing to be transported, since the field and park are connected with gates.

For training purposes, the run-up wire should be set approximately 20 feet apart. A strip of grass the width of a riding lawnmower should be cut in the centre of the run-up to create a natural running path for the hare. Hession or palm branches should be placed on either side of the run-up for about 20 yards as hares pass the slippers' hut. This acts as guide for the hares and denotes the wire run-up for them. Where possible, a ridge of grass should be left to grow in line with the row of wire.

When the wire reaches the play-ground area it is important to divert it at right angles to include this area. If it's only taken at gradual angle, then the hare will veer left or right and follow the direction of the wire. Ensure the base of the wire is secure and is sufficiently stabilised in the event of strong wind.



5. Feeding regime

When a club has hares in its care, correct feeding is extremely important. And exactly *what* you feed the hares is just as important as *how* you feed the hares.

Hare Park should be cleared/strimmed and limed as soon after release as possible or certainly in early spring to allow for frost and sunlight to disinfect area and allow regeneration of cover/grass/plants prior to restocking. Many wild plants such as dandelions and plantain can have positive feeding benefits. Clubs coursing late in season can purchase these dried in commercial hay products.

Recommended Feeding

When they are in club care, hares are best fed the following products as part of a well-rounded nutritional diet:

Oats (whole & sheaf)

Hay

Grass/Herbs/Wild Plants (dandelion, milk thistle, comfrey, plantain)

Black Sallies

Both the whole oats and the sheaf oats are full of vitamins that provide energy and help maintain condition. *Please note that honey coated oats are considered to be of lesser quality and are not recommended. And oats are always a better alternative to sugar beets, as they have a lot more to offer in terms of nutrition and less sugar.* Nothing takes the place of whole and sheaf oats. Hay and grass provide the necessary fibre they would be consuming in the wild.

Sheaf oats should be hung about 12" off the ground and turned on the second day



and replaced on the third day regardless of their condition.

They should be kept dry as far as possible and stored in a rodent-free environment. It is always best to split the sheaf into two parts to allow the hare more access to all of the Sheaf.

Sallies provide minerals and important trace nutrients, and should be placed in rows all facing the same direction. In the event of hares moving through the feeding area they are less likely to strike a sally if positioned in this way. A sally placed today should be turned the next day and removed on the third day regardless of condition. If you notice they are not eating the sally at all then it is likely this variety is not appropriate, so you will need to change your source.



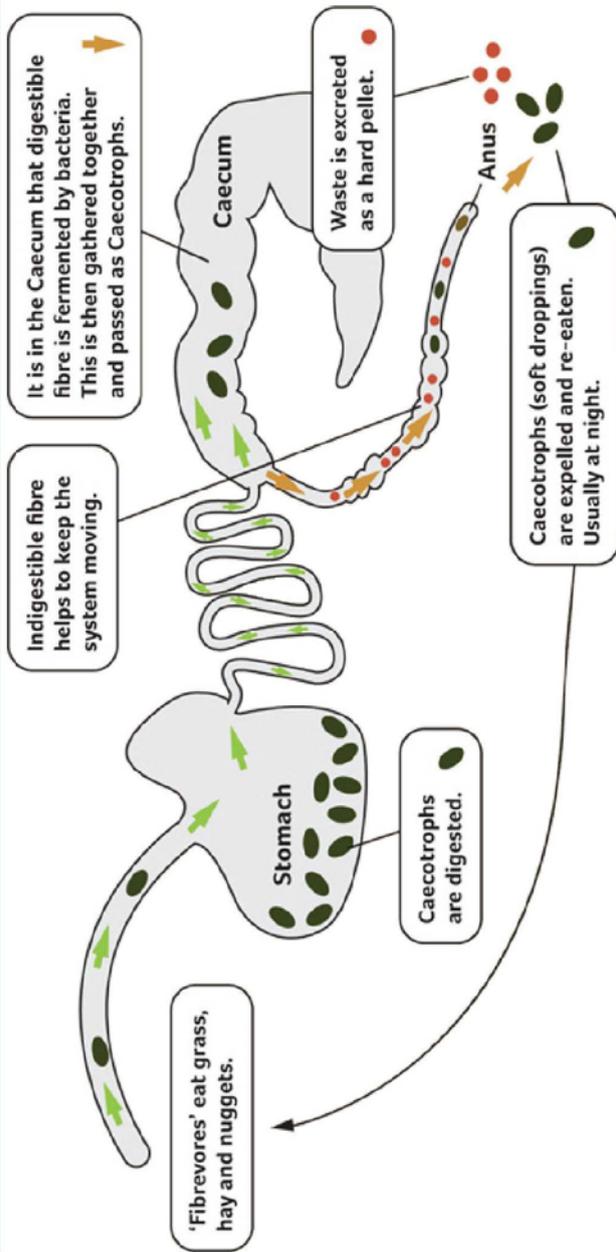
Containers

All feed containers are to be cleaned out and refilled on daily basis with whole oats. Containers can be recycled; many use large plastic milk bottles or large plastic buckets. Openings should be cut on the sides to allow ease of placement of food and access for the hare. It is worth noting that the large plastic buckets with openings cut on both sides are favoured by feeding hares as it is believed they are able to see from one opening to the other opening.

Water

Fresh water on a daily basis is a must, and is to be replaced each day. It is also best to treat the water with Sulphadimidine powder, which should be given in intervals of three days on and three days off. One sachet is per 5 gallons of water is the recommended dose. This powder is widely used to help prevent common water-borne bacterial problems. Make sure a sufficient number of water containers are located throughout the park and are accessible 24 hours a day.

HEALTHY DIGESTION = HEALTHY HARE



Lagomorphs – digest low value food TWICE

- food is chewed and mixed with enzymes in stomach - simple nutrients absorbed by intestine
- fibrous material then fermented in caecum by good bacteria and yeast
- soft, high energy stool formed and re-eaten to be absorbed by small intestine
- hard, waste stool excreted separately.

FIBRE is the trigger for bowel motility and separation of fermentable/waste products

POSITIVE factors for digestion

- minimum 25% fibre in diet – hay/grass etc
- many herbs/plants including dandelion (including dried/hay)
- willow (sally) - young/fresh limbs with soft bark
- plantain, milk thistle, comfrey - allow escape to grow!
- sufficient water intake – 120ml/kg/day – 600ml per hare!

NEGATIVE factors for digestion

- stress – adrenaline slows bowel and increases pH allowing bad bacteria to grow also leads to kidney damage, dehydration and stomach ulcers
- coccidiosis – damages lining of bowel preventing digestion and reduces appetite
- high sugar/starch diet – alters pH and allows Clostridia and E coli to grow (apples etc)
- water deprivation (including bullying from troughs) – leads to anorexia
- many oral antibiotics – kill good bacteria (especially penicillin/lincomycin/erythromycin)



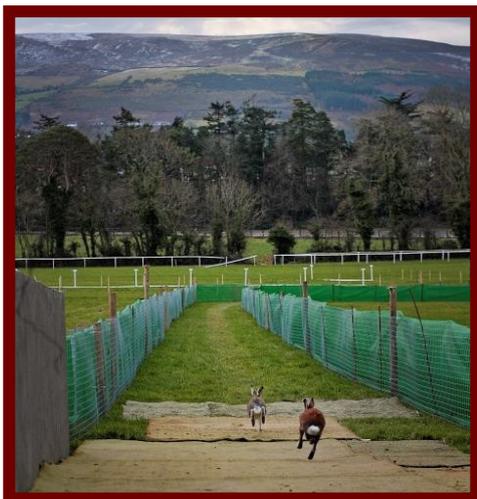
6: Field Layout and Training

Here we cover four main aspects: splitting hares for training, the back run, the boxing area, and training of the hare. All these three areas are closely related to each other, and if something is not done sufficiently in one area, it affects the smooth running of the other two areas. If the boxing area and back run are not properly set up, then it will be difficult to split the hares for training. As you read this, you will see how closely related they all are. You might need to refer back to this many times to make sure everything has been set up correctly, and that would be completely normal because it is so complicated.

Splitting Hares for Training

Hares should be brought to the splitting area located in the hare park to prepare them for boxing. Two men are sufficient for this exercise. It should not be rushed and requires patience and good communication between both men. When the hares have first arrived in the splitting paddock, allow them time to resettle.

Once they have resettled, one man should remain near the exit point leading to the back run, and the other is responsible for slowly approaching the hares. By slowly moving towards the hares, eventually some will break from the main pack and head for the back run. If too many hares separate from the pack and head for the back run, then the man appointed near the area leading to the back run will step out to split that group and ensure that only a manageable number of hares continue to the



boxing shed. There should not be more than 10 hares. This step is repeated only when each group of hares that are split have been fully boxed. This is a very important job and should be completed by the same people each time to ensure expertise is developed and risk of injury is avoided.

Back Run

The back run's width should be a minimum of 6 feet to a maximum of 12 feet. If it is too narrow there is a risk that hares will collide, and if too wide, this encourages them to double back to the hare park. It also needs to be secure and the wire checked for deterioration or holes. Low sacking at the base of the wire will guide hares away

from running close to the wire and encourage them to run the centre path. It is advisable to have an overhang of wire to prevent hares from jumping over it. The use of walkie-talkies is advisable because it allows the team to communicate without shouting.

As hares enter the back run, it is important that club members are positioned in “shys” to ensure hares do not double back to the hare park and to avoid them clashing. The number of shys is dependent on length of each club’s back run. By using shys the hares cannot see the club member, and so they more easily should continue to the boxing shed. The “shy” man should only step out when all hares have passed him. He should not shout or make any noise as his presence alone will encourage the hares to continue towards boxing area. Again, there is no point in rushing this! Patience is the name of the game and sufficient time should be allowed before commencement of coursing.



Boxing Area

Just prior to hares entering the boxing area, the back run should be made to narrow slightly. Both sides of the wire should be sacked and heavily foamed to prevent injury. The person located in the shy nearest the entry zone to the boxing area should be holding a large piece of light foam the width of the back run. When the hares have passed him he should step out and walk behind the hare. The foam sheet is used because it is a safe material and prevents injury. As the person walks with it, the foam will block any light if the hares decide to turn back, and ultimately will encourage them to head for the boxing area.

The section of the back run that is 30 feet from the boxing area should be covered in completely and foamed. As the hare approaches this area, the shutter leading into

the boxing area needs to be raised because it creates a light source. When the hare sees the light he is drawn to that area, and after one pass through this area he will not hesitate thereafter.



The layout of a boxing area is dependent on the facilities available to the club, but should always include the following:

1. A tunnel for hares to enter after leaving the back run. This tunnel should not have any sharp edges or protruding timber. If possible, a slight

bend on the tunnel prior to reaching boxes is advisable. The top of the tunnel in the boxing area should be latted, and carpet cut in strips should be inserted to hang down in the tunnel. The carpet should not touch the base of the tunnel but reach the midway point approximately. This will encourage the hares to slow down before approaching the actual boxes.

2. The main slides should be foamed to prevent injury to the hare.

3. The actual box should have recesses to accommodate the slides. Do not tack on lats to receive slides as they will protrude and the hare may strike it!

4. Each box should contain a compartment to accommodate a maximum of two hares only (13" by 13" minimum). The base of the box should contain carpet (replaced annually) to prevent the hare from slipping. If hares are slightly wet, do not box doubly as they may overheat. Make sure there is sufficient ventilation holes in the side of the box also. Each compartment should have a lid where each hare can be examined easily. Any box that cannot be opened should be replaced as it is not fit for purpose. Place a label on each compartment to record tag number (erasable marker) for ease of accessing records of each hare to ensure your most robust hares are selected for coursing.

5. Foam is the most important material used in boxing of hares. Inside the



boxes, you should place small sections of foam and also directly in front of the last slide.

6. As the hares enter the tunnel, they will pass through the carpet strips and slow down before entering the boxes. They will proceed through the boxes and slowly pass through the foam blocks. The slides are dropped as necessary and the main slide at start of the tunnel should be dropped when all hares have passed through this area.
7. **This job is not to be rushed and extreme care taken at all times.** There should be no talking or external noise permitted, with all mobile phones on silent.
8. When all hares from a group are in their respective compartments, the signal is given to recommence sending more hares to the back run.
9. New boxes are set up as necessary and foam refitted for the next group of hares.
10. Assess general health and body condition with hare sitting in box and administer oral medications.
11. Lift hare carefully from box and examine for any wounds, injuries or grazes – treat or segregate for further veterinary treatment if required.
12. As with all interactions with hares, **appoint the same people to do the same jobs at all times.** When appointing your officers at a meeting, the team members assigned to these jobs should be selected simultaneously.

Training

After following the advice on splitting and boxing, the next consideration is the training process. Again, clubs have differing opinions on how many times the hares should be put around the coursing field. This is dependent on whether the club's hares have daily access to the complete run-up or if they are out regularly on the playground area.

Before commencing training, the run-up and playground has to be wired off. The run-up wire should be approximately 20 feet apart. If the club have the option, a grass margin should be left grow to about 5 or 6 inches parallel to the training wire. This will act as a guide for the hares when the wire is removed following training. The hares tend not to cross this grass margin and it encourages them to remain in the run-up at all times.

When the training wire reaches the end of the run-up, it should be turned at right angles to create a circle around the perimeter of the playground. The reason for a right angle turn is to prevent the hare following the direction of the wire; if you slope wire from the end of the run-up you are actually training the hare to break left or right, creating an advantage to either collar.

Prior to the commencement of training, there are two actions that need to be taken. First, please fix tape set roughly 12 inches from the base of the wire (red & white or some other colour instead of white). This will ensure the wire is highlighted to the hare and encourage it to run the centre of the run-up. Second, it is advisable to cut a strip up the centre of the run-up that is the width of a lawnmower. No person should walk on this area as the hares will make their own natural "run" on this strip, which will assist in the hare running a straight line. This "run" created by the hare is similar to a "pass" made by the hare in the wild.

If we go back a step to the boxing area, it is advisable to box all hares prior to each training run. If you allow the hares to run through the boxes the first day and decide not to box them until the next training session, they will expect to simply run through again and will travel at a higher speed: this will cause problems for the

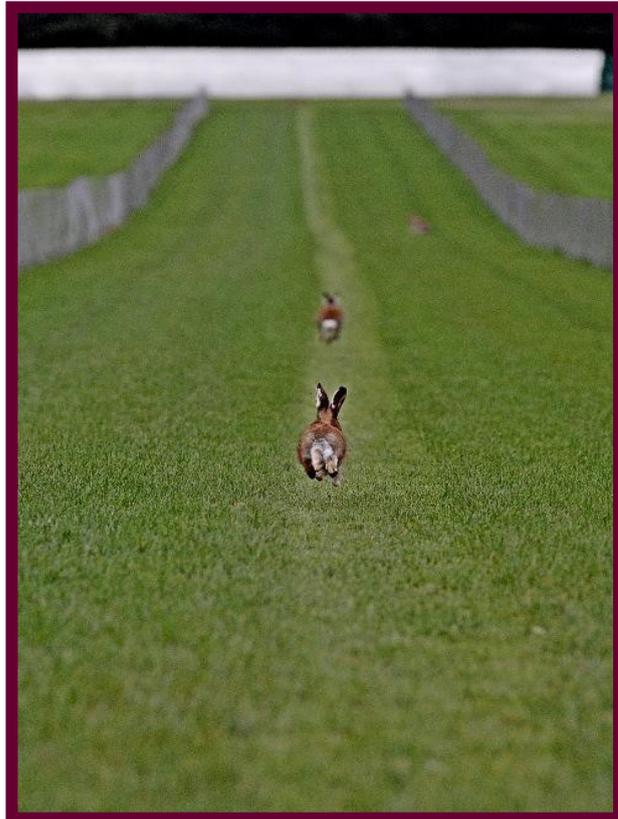


boxing team. Therefore, box the hares each time, as this ensures the hares enter boxes at the reduced pace as you have trained them to. This eliminates any risk of injury! To do otherwise is confusing to the hare and only increases risk of injury.

Once the wire is erected and the tape fitted to base you can commence training. Below are the most effective instructions we have developed to date:

1. **Each hare is to be released individually. This is because if you release them in small groups, then if one goes off the centre, another may follow. Hares can force each other off the path as they compete for this space. This prevents them from assessing their environment at their own pace.**
2. **The next hare can be released when the previous hare is half way up the coursing stretch.**

3. This operation should not take place during poor weather conditions and should be spaced out with a minimum of a day between training sessions to allow rest periods.
4. There should be nobody present on the coursing field for training, although members may be permitted to stand well back to observe the hares only. There should be no noise under any circumstances. Leave the hares to find their own way under the escape! After each training session, you will find they will exit the coursing field much quicker to enter the hare park.
5. After each training session, one man can walk into the playground and secure the hare park. Each park is different so adjust as necessary.
6. After the hares have completed two training sessions, remove the coloured tape. You will find that the majority of your hares will now run the centre path as they have made their one "run" without pressure and this will ensure the majority of your healthy hares can be used for coursing.
7. Keep a record of tag numbers and note the quality of each hare prior to coursing/trials day. This will ensure that only your most robust hares are coursed/trialled. Also keep updating this record over the days of coursing/trials. One man should be appointed to this job and he will work with the team in the boxing shed. The information provided in the history of the hare and a final examination prior to a course will ensure a fit and healthy hare is coursed/trialled.



Hare Steward

This is a very important role and the persons selected for this duty should possess the following abilities and take the following actions in the event of a hare being pinned:

- be able to reach the hare promptly;
- be knowledgeable in the handling of a hare;
- move to directly lift the hare, and to ignore the greyhounds as the handlers will reach them;

- shield the hare from the muzzled greyhounds and only move off when the greyhounds are leashed up;
- place the hare in a holding box and return to the boxing area;
- immediately arranged for the vet to examine the hare for injuries and treatment if required;
- arrange for this hare NOT to be coursed again and released when appropriate.



7: Pre-release treatment

All hares are to be inspected by all clubs prior to release. When necessary, they should be dosed and re-examined for any issues that require treatment prior to release. Determinations needs to be made if release needs to be delayed due to health issues, and this should take place only with the permission of the NPWS and following veterinary advice and treatment.

Hare tags are to be removed, and all boxes used for release must have sufficient room and ventilation for the hare. Do not over-populate boxes even if only for short period of time. Release should take place during daylight hours. Normally, for restocking, hares are to be returned to areas they were originally netted from. The only exception to this rule is if there is a threat from illegal hunting *and* following consultation with your NPWS ranger.



8. Year-round Conservation

Member clubs contribute significantly to the welfare and safety of hares throughout the year. Even though the Open Seasons Order 2005 permits coursing to take place between September 26 and Feb 28 the following year, the clubs are active outside these dates, too, because it incorporates the breeding season for hares. Clubs work with their local farmers to ensure habitat is maintained and predators controlled to ensure an abundant hare population. The emergence of illegal hunting is another activity where clubs pay a vital role in reporting and preventing this menacing



illegal activity. Clubs work closely with other agencies such as the Gardaí and NPWS rangers in bringing prosecutions against the people responsible for illegal hunting. Just as important, our clubs also ensure appropriate food is available for hares during extremely poor weather, be that frost or snow or

simply extremes in temperature. At the end of a coursing meeting, when hares are released back to the countryside where they were originally netted, the Quercus reports that this assists in maintaining a strong population throughout the preserves of the club. Our interests in the hare are found well beyond the coursing field.

APPENDIX Part I: NPWS Licensing Conditions

Below are the licensing conditions as specified upon being granted a license for the 2018-19 coursing season.

1. The Licence shall remain in force for the period beginning on the 10th day of August, 2018 and ending on the 28th day of February, 2019 and may be revoked or amended by the Minister. *(dates slightly vary from year to year)*
2. The Licence is issued pursuant to and in accordance with the Wildlife Act, 1976 (Approved Traps, Snares and Nets) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No, 620 of 2003).
3. A return giving particulars of all of the captures and the locations of the captures made on foot of this licence shall be made to the Minister within 4 weeks of the expiry of the period of validity of the Licence or on a request made in that behalf by the Minister.
4. A return giving particulars of the number of hares coursed at a coursing event and/or trial session each day and other data relating to hare deaths and hares needing assistance or injured and the numbers and locations of the release of hares made by the licensee and by the coursing clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto shall be made to the Minister within 4 weeks of the expiry of the period of validity of the Licence or on a request made in that behalf by the Minister.
5. Details of the numbers and locations of the capture of all hares made by the coursing clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto shall be made available to the relevant conservation ranger, on or before the weekend of the meeting for which the hares were captured. In addition, these details should be notified by email to coursing@chg.gov.ie prior to the individual meetings.
6. The nets shall not be placed or operated in a place or in such a way as to endanger farm or domestic animals or other species for which they are not intended.
7. The Licence shall be produced for inspection on a request being made in that behalf by a member of the Garda Síochána or any person appointed by the Minister under Section 72 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended), to be an authorised person for the purposes of the said Act.
8. The Licensee and each of the coursing clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto shall arrange for a qualified veterinary surgeon to be in attendance during all of their coursing and trial meetings, and that he/she shall prepare a signed report on the general health of the hares and on any

injuries or deaths of hares that occur during the meeting. Each club shall ensure that the signed veterinary report in respect of its meeting and a signed veterinary report of a trial session is submitted to the Department within four weeks of the date on which the meeting/trial finished.

9. Any hare captured pursuant to the Licence may not be coursed or trialled more than once on the same day and all necessary arrangements shall be made to ensure that hares that have been coursed or trialled can be readily identified to ensure that this condition is rigidly observed.

10. Sick, injured or pregnant hares shall not be taken under the Licence.

11. Hares that become sick or injured or that appear to be pregnant while in captivity shall not be coursed or trialled.

12. Adequate escapes must be provided while coursing/trialling hares captured pursuant to the Licence.

13. All hares must be released back into the wild during daylight hours the day after the coursing meeting has concluded, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant National Parks and Wildlife Service staff beforehand.

14. The same numbers of hares must be released back into the wild at the same locations from which such numbers were captured, unless otherwise agreed beforehand with the relevant National Parks and Wildlife Service staff.

15. The Licence does not cover the following townlands in Co. Wexford: North East Slob, North West Slob, Big Island, Beggering Island and The Raven.

16. All National Parks and Statutory Nature Reserves with the State are excluded from the provisions of the Licence.

17. This Licence covers the capturing of hares in the State. Any club capturing hares outside of this jurisdiction for the purposes of hare coursing or trialling inside the jurisdiction must be able to produce the relevant licenses/authorisation from the appropriate state authorities concerned.

18. The Licensee and the coursing clubs listed in the schedule attached hereto shall co-operate fully with any officer of the Minister and shall comply with any request made by such an officer in the course of his/her duties.

19. The removal from this jurisdiction of hares captured in this jurisdiction under the terms of this licence is strictly prohibited.

20. In all matters relating to the capture, keeping in captivity, tagging, marking, coursing, trialling, training and release of hares, and the muzzling

of greyhounds, there shall be full compliance with the Directives, Instructions and Guidance Notes issued by the Executive Committee of the Irish Coursing Club.

21. Any person involved in the capturing of hares must have a written certificate, signed by the Club Secretary or the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club, certifying that the named bearer is a member of a Club affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club and that the certificate must be produced on request to a member of the Garda Síochana or an Authorised Person appointed by the Minister under Section 72 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended).

22. The Licensee, the Coursing Clubs affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club and the Members of such clubs must comply with Section 44 of the Wildlife Acts and must obtain the permission, either of the person who is the owner or the occupier of the land or, in cases where some other person is entitled to enjoy sporting rights over the land, that other person, prior to entering on any land for the purpose of hunting or catching hares.

23. Trials should only be run for the express purpose of familiarising hares with the most direct route to the escape and no more than one dog should take part in any trial run.

24. A club may hold no more than one trial session. In exceptional circumstances, the Irish Coursing Club may apply to the Minister to hold a second day of trials. An authorised officer of the ICC should be in attendance at each such session.

25. All coursing fixtures and trial sessions shall be notified by the Irish Coursing Club to the Department (by email to coursing@chg.gov.ie or any other email address as may be notified to the ICC from time to time) as soon as such details become available to the ICC.

Note: The Licence does not authorise any person to enter on any land without the permission of the owner or occupier of the land.

The above is also in addition to both the Wildlife Act 1979 (amended 2000) and the Animal Health & Welfare Act 2013.

PART II: The Coursing Greyhound



9: Caring for Our Greyhounds

Greyhound Protection

All registered greyhounds in Ireland, both for track and field, are protected under the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011 and the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013. The Welfare of Greyhounds Act has a provision in section 6 that refers to relying on and adhering to the greyhound industry's Code of Practice. This is available through contacting the Irish Greyhound Board or downloading it from their website, <http://www.igb.ie/Resource/greyhound-welfare/> . The Code, the Greyhound Welfare Act, and all other legislation is required to be followed by all participants within the greyhound industry. The Code at times will be revised to reflect new developments, such as the microchipping requirement found in the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations (2015). Here, the entire Code of Practice is not reproduced, but only the sections most important for the coursing greyhound owner are summarised.

First, however, the most important goal is to set standards and clearly state what is expected of everyone in the care and management of registered greyhounds. This makes clear what level of knowledge and competence required for their care. We always need to keep in mind that our greyhounds depend on us, and only we, their owners and trainers, are responsible for their welfare, and this includes their physical and social environment. We also emphasise how important it is for there to be a good working relationship between the greyhound carer and the veterinarian, as this ensures responsible care for the greyhound.

To be precise on these fundamental issues, we quote directly here from the industry's Code of Practice:

- a. The official registered owner is responsible for the welfare, action and whereabouts of their greyhounds.*
- b. The registered owner and the nominated keeper of the greyhound shall both take full responsibility for the physical and social well-being of the greyhound and shall do so with full regard to its welfare.*
- c. This code supports and promotes the principles set out in the "Five Freedoms" which underpin best welfare practice:*

1. *Freedom from hunger and thirst;*
2. *Freedom from discomfort;*
3. *Freedom from pain, injury and disease;*
4. *Freedom to express normal behaviour*
5. *Freedom from fear and distress.*

d. Owners and keepers of greyhounds shall ensure that greyhounds are kept under conditions reflecting the above principles at all times and where deficiencies are identified, take prompt action to rectify.

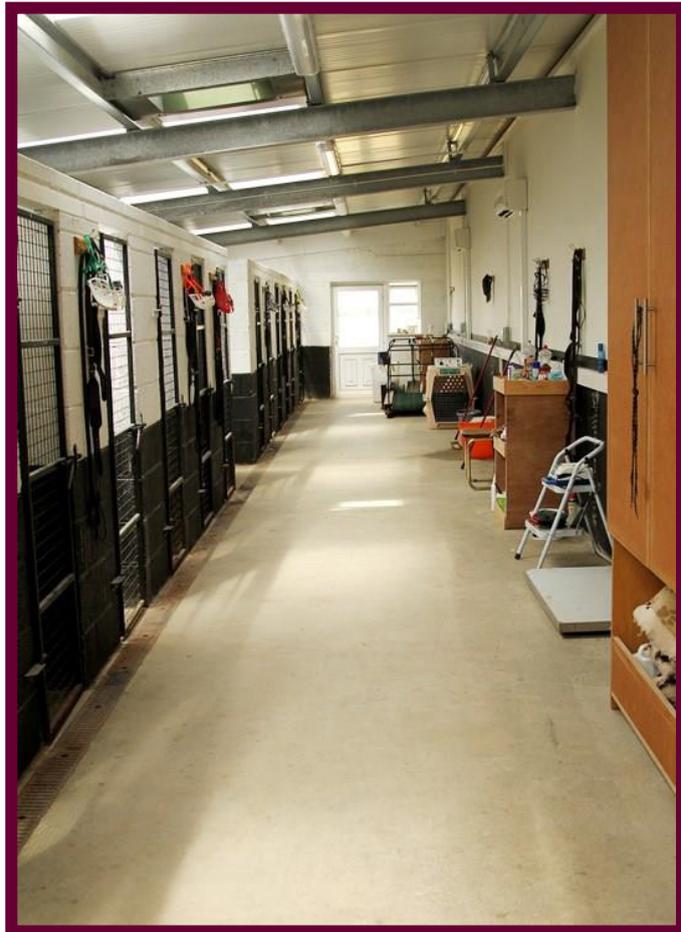
e. All greyhounds must be registered in the name of the official owner and all appropriate documentation should be completed and forwarded to the keeper of the Irish Greyhound Stud Book.

f. When transporting greyhounds, owners and keepers shall ensure that it is carried out in compliance with current Transport Regulations.

Below we offer a summary of the *Greyhound Code of Practice*. It covers such areas as housing and living environment, environmental enrichment, and several health and safety issues as well.

Housing and exercise

In the sections covering housing and exercise, the Code requires the registered owner or keeper of the greyhound to pay attention to several aspects. Where you locate the kennel is very important to your greyhound's health and general welfare. You need to locate the kennel in regard to noise and pollution – such as not being too close to a road, or perhaps where loud machinery is often operating.



Your greyhounds need proper shelter, too, that not only protects them from wind and rain, but also provides some shade on very warm days and allows them to avoid too much direct sunlight. It also needs to be at least partially enclosed so that they have a sleeping area that sufficiently shelters them from bad weather. Of course that sleeping area needs to be well ventilated and not too damp, as otherwise this will encourage the growth of bacteria and fungus. You will also need to think about if it is especially hot in the summer or cold in the winter. Constant access to fresh water is also required.

The Code of Practice becomes even more specific about housing and related matter. For example it requires that any kind of kennel housing must be separated by either solid partitions or galvanised mesh or chain link wire dividers. Solid partitions can help keep noise levels down. It also specifies that and surfaces in the kennel need to be made of “impervious material” because it is easy to clean, disinfect and keep in good condition. Of course, it needs to be safe too, so your greyhounds should not have access to sharp objects, electrical equipment and wiring, and any other dangers.

For pregnant brood bitches, you are required to provide a whelping area that is separate from the other greyhounds. This area should be at least 2 ½ times the size of the greyhound. She also must have soft bedding that you will change regularly and frequently.



Outside, their runs should have grassy sections that are kept well maintained and not allowed to deteriorate into bare earth or, in bad weather, deep mud. Sand can also be used, and is especially convenient in the winter.

When they are outside, besides needing a large enough area for toileting, they also need to be able to interact with people and other dogs for their health, fitness and general well-being in terms of social interactions.

Environmental Enrichment

The term Environmental Enrichment is about making sure greyhounds are treated in a way that encourages them to be confident and happy, as there are only benefits to this. Confident and happy greyhounds are enthusiastic coursers, are not easily frightened and are able to handle different types of social environments. They are able to take on a variety of challenges without being disturbed or traumatised, and so are generally robust in body and mind.



This begins when they are young, and it is important they are regularly handled from the very beginning of their lives. From birth until about the age of 14 weeks, handling during this period has a permanent life-long affect on behavioural development regarding socialisation with people and other dogs, as well as habits they will form.



Even though there might be one-off incidents or accidents that can create fear, nervousness or anxiety, the pup who has been raised and handled to be confident and well-socialised will grow into a more confident adult.



Temperature, Noise, Lighting

The concern here is about more than physical comfort. For example, a greyhound being too hot or too cold is at risk of developing a number of health problems, and a greyhound being too cold will quickly lose weight burning calories to stay warm. Extremes of temperature must be avoided and temperature in general should be monitored all the time. The minimum indoor temperature allowed for breeding greyhounds is 10 C (50 F), though you should apply this to greyhounds who are not breeding as well. Puppies need a warmer environment, and 26C is recommended. In terms of noise, it was mentioned earlier to locate the housing for greyhounds away from noisy places, such as near a busy road. There is also the issue of noise from barking, which needs to comply with local noise regulations. Keeping barking noise down is better for greyhounds as well, especially puppies, and keeps their anxiety levels down, which has many health benefits.

Lighting is also important, and best if it is similar to natural lighting conditions. Greyhounds should not be locked away in permanent or near-permanent darkness and should be experiencing at least 8 hours of light per day. In addition, the lighting must be designed so that the interior of their kennels can be seen clearly. Sunlight is



the best source of light, especially since they indirectly take in Vitamin D3 from the sun's rays. Constant sunlight on hot days is not good for greyhounds, and so they always need a shaded area they can retreat to when they become too hot. Of course there is always a need for artificial light, such as when kennels are being cleaned or a greyhound needs to be examined.

Ventilation and Bedding

Ventilation is not the same as draughts, and it is important for a few reasons. First, it allows your greyhounds' lungs to breathe in clean air and not air that is heavy with the scent of urine or any other noxious odours. Just as important, it helps to avoid the build-up of dampness and so the growth of bacteria and fungus. Ventilation keeps the kennel area smelling fresh and clean.

Bedding also is related to this, since it can also contribute to what is carried in the air. So bedding have to be changed often and must always be clean and dry. In addition, the sleeping area must either be raised up so that it is out of the direct line of draughts or in a separate area that is lower and also out of the line of draughts. Of course all sleeping areas must be well bedded. In the case of whelping greyhounds, besides being provided with a whelping box of suitable size (mentioned above), this also must be lined with clean bedding and cleaned often, at the minimum once a day.

Hygiene and Pest Control

Good ventilation is just one way to practice good hygiene and good health. Kennels and exercise areas also need you to keep them clean in order to control the spread of bacteria, parasites and disease, and so to keep your greyhound comfortable and healthy. This involves removing faeces *at least* twice daily from kennels with adult greyhounds, and regarding puppies, faeces must be removed *at least* 4 times a day. This means you are required to put a cleansing and disinfection regime in place.

Whatever you choose for cleansing and disinfecting must be suitable not only in terms of their general safety and effectiveness, but they must be suitable for the type of surface you will use them on. It is also important that the manufacturer's instructions are followed closely, because diluting a solution too much can make it ineffective, but if it is too concentrated it can be toxic or cause injury. Your cleansing and disinfecting regime also needs to be considered with such issues as identifying the most used toileting areas, how robust your greyhounds are, how likely the area is at risk of bacteria, fungus and disease on a daily basis.

Pest control is just as an important issue as hygiene, and here we mean fleas, ticks, flies, lice and wild rodents. First, any chemicals you use for pest control must be authorised for that purpose, and then used only according to manufacturer instructions. You need to be aware that both greyhounds and humans can be adversely affected by pest control agents, and you should seek expert advice before using any pest control chemicals.

To reduce and avoid the presence of rodents, food must be stored properly, the dry food kept where rodents cannot have access and any fresh meat to be kept refrigerated. Any food you prepare must be done so hygienically and served in clean containers.

When it comes to disposing of any kind of waste, from bedding to toileting waste to rodent droppings and more, they must not be allowed to remain on the premises for long. Instead, they must be disposed of promptly and according to your local authority's requirements.

Greyhound Health

The most basic thing you must do is check your greyhound *daily* to make sure it is eating, drinking, defecating, and urinating, and is behaving normally and able to move freely, and also has a normal appearance and a normal coat. Any changes in



their health status must be acted upon immediately. Another daily need to have in place is an exercise programmes appropriate to the needs of the type of greyhound: for example, a 12 month old sapling does not have the same needs as an 8 year old brood bitch.

You also are required to arrange for a comprehensive vaccination programme, including vaccination against canine distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and parvovirus. This must be in accordance with veterinary advice and manufacturer instructions. Vaccination against kennel cough is also recommended, though it is only a preventive for kennel cough and is not a treatment for it.

Parasites are required to be accounted for too, regarding both worms and fleas. There must be treatment for gastrointestinal worms as needed, and this has to be done according to veterinary advice and manufacturer instructions. Fleas need to be controlled for both on the greyhound and in the environment, which are two different types of controls. Both must be put in place also according to veterinary advice and manufacturer instructions.

In terms of new greyhounds arriving to your premises, greyhounds known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease cannot be admitted unless you have sufficient quarantine facilities. And no matter if it is a newly arrived greyhound

or one that is already established with you, those who are known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease must be kept isolated in suitable facilities.

No matter what person is in charge of the greyhounds, that person must establish a professional relationship with a veterinary practitioner who can attend to the needs of the greyhound. This is not only in regard to disease prevention measures, but also the greyhound brood bitch, particularly at whelping time. The health of the greyhound brood bitch must be assessed prior to mating and the registered owner and keeper shall ensure compliance with breeding frequency restrictions stated in the Greyhound Welfare Act 2011. Breeding restrictions in Part 3, Section 11 (1-3) are provided for you below:

11. — (1) A person who causes or permits a greyhound bitch to be mated, inseminated or otherwise used for breeding purposes unless the bitch has reached the age of 15 months commits an offence.

(2) A person who causes or permits a greyhound bitch to give birth to more than 6 litters during her lifetime or, if subsection (3) applies, 8 litters, commits an offence.

(3) A person may permit a greyhound bitch to give birth to no more than two additional litters to the 6 litters referred to in subsection (1) if, prior to a mating or insemination leading to such birth —

(a) a veterinary practitioner certifies that the pregnancy and birth do not present a risk to the health or welfare of the bitch, and

(b) the certificate is lodged with the Club.

In the event that a greyhound's life must be ended, euthanasia shall only be performed by a veterinary practitioner. The body must be disposed of in compliance with animal by-products regulations. In cases where a greyhound is owned or leased other than by the keeper responsible for its day-to-day management, in the event of the need for euthanasia, written permission must be obtained from the registered owner or the appointed nominee.

Responsible Use of Animal Remedies and Security

As the registered owner or keeper of a greyhound, you are bound to ensure full compliance with current Animal Remedies Regulations at all times, and to keep current with it. You also need to comply with the regulations that only animal

remedies sold or supplied by a licensed vendor (e.g. veterinary practitioner, pharmacist or licensed retailer) and authorised for use in Ireland are permitted for use in greyhounds. The purpose of this is to keep your greyhound safe from unregulated products. For any further details on these issues, you can easily find the relevant legislation on the internet and read through. This includes the European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 and the European Union (Animal By-Products) Regulations 2014. This is especially in regard to governing the feeding of Category 2 & 3 meat products.

Safety also comes in the form of keeping your greyhound sufficiently secure. You are required to keep all kennels securely fastened. In addition, each individual kennel is to have its own secure closing device, and it should not be able to be opened by the resident greyhound. You also need to be ready in cases of emergency, such as a fire, and there must be easy access to exits for greyhounds and people to leave a building.





It's all about the hare.

Irish Coursing Club
Rule 88:
Prohibited Substances

(AS AMENDED
1990, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005,
2009, 2012, 2015, 2016 & 2017 & 2018)

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It is a condition of entry into events organised by The Irish Coursing Club or Affiliated Clubs, that Members of the Irish Coursing Club and persons concerned with greyhounds entered in coursing events agree to be bound by the Rules herein.

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Definitions: -

“Notice of acceptance” form when signed by the affected person is accepting a breach of Rule 88 has occurred and the matter is dealt with on a summary basis provided it is not a second such occurrence whereby the matter is placed before the Independent hearing committee for adjudication.

“Positive Sample” is a sample that following analysis has identified the presence of a prohibited substance as certified by an expert veterinary surgeon, or expert veterinary pharmacologist, or expert pharmacist approved by the ICC.

“Premises” is a building or other structure (whether temporary or permanent) where a greyhound is kept (it does not include a person’s private residence or dwelling)

“Prohibited Substance”: - As defined in Article 1

“Responsible Person” is any or all of the following: the owner or nominated trainer as notified to secretary of ICC by the owner (see form at appendix B) or his/her directly appointed representative or the person in charge of the premises where the dog is located.

"Sample" type may include urine, blood, hair, or any other body fluid or tissue.

“Secretary” is secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.

“Testing Official” shall be a Stipendiary Steward, a veterinary surgeon, a control steward or any person as appointed by the Executive Committee or by the Secretary.

“Trainer” is that person as nominated by an owner as having full control and responsibility for a greyhound as notified to Secretary of Irish Coursing Club. In the absence of specific notice forwarded by the owner to the ICC informing the club that a trainer has been specifically nominated, the owner, by default, is deemed to be the trainer and to have full responsibility for the greyhound.

Article 1

1. A Prohibited Substance is defined as any drug, or it’s metabolite or an isomer of that drug, which is capable of affecting the speed, stamina, courage or conduct of a greyhound in competition , including any substance capable of affecting a greyhound by its action on the central or peripheral nervous system or any part of that system such as the autonomic nervous system, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, alimentary digestive system, musculoskeletal system, genitourinary or endocrine system and which also:-
 - (a) is included in the list of prohibited substances as defined in Schedule 1, or is implicitly covered by that listand/or

- (b) is a substance banned at all times as defined in Schedule 2
and/or
 - (c) in accordance with Schedule 3:
 - (i) is not a licensed therapeutic veterinary medicine which has been prescribed for bona fide therapeutic reasons following consultation with a veterinarian.
 - (ii) is not a licensed human drug which has been used for bona fide therapeutic reasons, prescribed by a veterinarian in accordance with the “Cascade” as defined under the Animal Remedies Regulations.and/or
 - (d) in accordance with Schedule 4 is not an Exempted Substance
and/or
 - (e) Is present in excess of the listed thresholds in accordance with Schedule 5
2. The positive finding of a prohibited substance in a sample from a greyhound, shall be a breach of these Rules.
 3. The finding of a substance prohibited at all times in a sample from a greyhound, or the possession of such substances in the responsible person’s premises where a greyhound is kept shall be a breach of these rules.

Prohibited Substances

Schedule 1

(A) Central Nervous System Stimulants,

Cortical and Medullary stimulants

Including, but not limited to, the following examples:

adrafinil

Adrenaline

amfepramone

amfetaminil

amiphenazole

amphetamine

Ephedra

Cocaine

Caffeine

arecoline

arsenic

bemegride

benzoylecgonine

benzphetamine

Benzylpiperazine

Bromantan

Carphedon

Cathine (nor pseudephedrine)

Chlorphentermine

Clobenzorex

Cocaine

Cropropamide

Crotehamide

Desoxyephedrine

Dimethylamphetamine

Diisopropylamine

Doxapram
Ephedrine
Etamivan
Ethylamphetamine
Etilefrine
Etodroxizine
Famprofazone
Fenbutrazate
Fencamfamine
Fencamine
Fenethylamine (Fenethylamine,
Phenethylamine, Phenethylamine)
Fenethylamine (Fenethylamine,
Phenethylamine, Phenethylamine)
Fenfluramine
Fenproporex
Fluorophenethylamine
Furfenorex
Heptaminol
Hydroxyamphetamine Stimulant
Hydroxyephedrine
Isometheptane
Leptazole (Pentylentetrazole)
MDA (Methylenedioxyamphetamine) Stimulant
(Methylenedioxyethylamphetamine)
Meclofenoxate
Mefenorex
Mefexamide
Meldonium
Mephentermine
Mesocarb

Methamphetamine
Methylaminorex
Methylphenidate
Modafanil
Morphedrin
Nicotine
Nikethamide
Norfenefrine
Norfenfluramine
Octopamine
Oxilofrine (Hydroxyephedrine)
Paraxanthine
Pentylentetrazole (Leptazole)
Phendimetrazine
Phenethylamine Fenethylamine, Phenethylamine)
Phenethylamine (Fenethylamine)
Phenmetrazine
Phenpromethamine
Phenylpiracetam (Carphedon)
Phenylpropanolamine
Pholedrine
Picrotoxin
Pipradol
Piracetam
Prolintane
Propylhexedrine
Protriptyline
Pseudoephedrine
Selegiline
Sildenafil citrate, Tadalafil

Sibutramine

Synephrine

Tuaminoheptane

Yohimbine

(b) CNS Depressants,

(including, sedatives, tranquillizers, narcotics, anti-anxiety, central analgesic, mood altering and behaviour modifying drugs)

Including, but not limited to, the following examples:

Acetophenazine

Acepromazine

Acetylmorphine

Adinazolam

Alfentanil

Alphadolone acetate

Alphaprodine

Alpidem Anxiolytic

Alprazolam

Amineptine

Amisulpride

Amitriptylline

Amobarbital

Amoxapine

Amperozide

Anileridrine

Anti-epileptics e.g.

Carbamazepine

Primidone

Phenytoin

Valproic Acid

Felbamate

Gabapentin

Keppra

Chlorazepate

Zonisamide

Antihistamines and chemically related compounds

Apocodeine

Apomorphin

Aprobarbital Sedative

Apronalide

Azacyclonal Antipsychotic

Azaperone

Barbiturates and related compounds

Beclamide

Benperidol Antipsychotic

Bentazepam Anxiolytic

Benzoctamine Sedative

Benzodiazepines and related compounds

Benzonatate

Betaprodine

Biriperone

Bromazepam

Bromisovalum

Bromocriptine

Bromophenethylamine

Bromperidol

Brotizolam

Bucetin

Bupropion

Buspirone
Butabarbital
Butalbital
Butaperazine
Butorphanol
Camazepam
Cannabis
Captodiamine
Carbromal
Carfentanyl
Carphenazine
Carpipramine
Cetirizine
Chloral betaine
Chloral hydrate
Chlordiazepoxide
Chlormethiazole
Chlormezanone
Chloroform
Chlorpheniramine
Chlorproethazine
Chlorpromazine
Chlorprothixene
Citalopram
Clemastine Clemizole
Clobazam
Clomipramine (
Clonazepam
Codeine
Clorazepate
Clothiapine

Clotiazepam
Cloxazolam
Clozapin
Cyclobarbital
Delorazepam
Demoxepam
Desmethylpyrilamine
Detomidine
Dermorphin
Deserpidine
Desipramine
Dextromoramide
Dextropropoxyphene
Dextrorphan
Diazepam
Dibenzepin
Diethylthiambutene
Diethyltryptamine
Dihydrocodeine
Dihydrocodeinone
Diphenhydramine
Diphenylpyraline
Diphenoxylate
Dipipanone
Diprenorphine
Dothiepin
Duloxetine
Enciprazine Endorphins Endogenous opioids
Enkephalins
Estazolam
Ethylisobutrazine

Ethylmorphine
Etifoxine
Etomidate
Fentanyl
Fluanisone
Fludiazepam
Flunitrazepam
Fluopromazine (Triflupromazine)
Fluoresone
Fluoxetine
Flupenthixol
Fluphenazine
Flurazepam
Flutoprazepam
Fluvoxamin
Fosphenytoin
Gabapentin
Galantamine
Gamma-Butyrolactone (GBL)
Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate (GHB)
Gepirone
Guanabenz
Haloperidol
Hexobarbital
Hydrocodone
Imipramine
Iprindole
Iproniazid
Ketamine
Ketazolam
Lithium

Loprazolam

Loratadine

Lormetazepam

Mebutamate

Medazepam

Medetomidine

Meperidine

Pethidine

Mephenytoin

Mephobarbital

Mepyramine

Pyrilamine

Metharbital

Methotrimeprazine

Methsuximide

Metomidate

Mibefradil

Midazolam

Mirtazepine

Narcotic analgesic compounds, opiates, opioids and chemically related compounds of, Morphine, Opioids, Naloxone

Nordiazepam

Olanzapine

Paroxetine

Pentobarbital

Phenobarbitone

Pericyazine

Phencyclidine

Phenyliprazine

Phenytoin

Pimozide Antipsychotic

Pinazepam
Pipequaline
Piperacetazine
Potassium Bromide
Primidone
Prochlorperazine
Promazine Tranquiliser
Promethazine
Propiomazine Tranquiliser
Propionylpromazine
Pyrithydione
Romifidine
Quinalbarbital (Secobarbitone)
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)
Sertraline
Sodium Bromide
Temazepam
Tricyclic antidepressants
Tripelemamine Antihistamine
Triprolidine
Xylazine
Zuclopenthixol (Cisordinol, Clopixol, Acuphase)

(c) Masking agents

Any substance administered to disguise or make undetectable, or attempt to disguise or make undetectable, the administration of any of the substance(s) referred to in in this schedule.

Including for example, but not limited to: -

Probenecid

Desmopressin

Diuretics,

Urinary acidifiers & alkalinizers

Prohibited Substances

Schedule 2

Substances prohibited at all times

2 .1. Non-approved substances. Substances which are not listed in any of the classes, and which have not been approved by any national or international medicines agency, may not be administered to a greyhound.

2.2 The following substances are deemed to be Permanently Banned Prohibited Substances (Substances Prohibited at all times) and shall include a metabolite, isomer of any of the substances specified hereunder: -

EPO & Oxygen carriers and similarly acting compounds., such as

- Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents, including but not limited to erythropoietin (EPO) erythropoietin congeners, and related substances, Darbepoetin, Cera, etc.

-Synthetic oxygen carriers, including haemoglobin-based oxygen carriers (HBOCs) or perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and other purified proteins or chemicals having the ability to carry oxygen. - including but not limited to perfluorochemicals, eflaproxiral and modified haemoglobin products.

-Hypoxia inducible factor (HIF)-1 stabilisers, including but not limited to ITPP (myo-inositol trispyrophosphate)., Molidustat, Roxadusta, and HIF activators, e.g. Argon Xenon

-Growth Hormones including

Growth Hormone and its congeners, Insulin-like growth factor-1. (IGFs). Growth Hormone Releasing Hormone (GHRH), and its analogues, and related substances.

-Agents that directly or indirectly affect or manipulate gene expression.

. Anabolic androgenic steroids and related substances

including for example but not limited to: -

boldenone, ethylestrenol, methandriol,

nandrolone, stanozolol and testosterone.

They also include but are not limited to those listed in the WADA prohibited list, such as 1-androstenediol; 1-androstenedione; bolandiol; bolasterone; boldione; calusterone; clostebol; danazol; dehydrochlormethyltestosterone; desoxymethyltestosterone; drostanolone; fluoxymesterone; formebolone; furazabol; gestrinone; 4-hydroxytestosterone; mestanolone; mesterolone; metenolone; methandienone; methasterone; methyldienolone; methyl-1-

testosterone; methylnoretestosterone; methyltestosterone; metribolone; mibolerone; 19-norandrostenedione; norboletone; norclostebol; norethandrolone; oxabolone; oxandrolone; oxymesterone; oxymetholone; prostanazol; quinbolone; stenbolone; 1-testosterone; tetrahydrogestrinone (THG); trenbolone; and other substances with a similar chemical structure or similar biological effect(s).

Other Anabolic Agents

Including, but not limited to:

Beta 2 agonists

- Salbutamol
- Salmeterol
- Ractopamine
- Tibolone
- Zeranol
- Zilpaterol
- Clenbuterol

-Selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs), e.g. andarine and ostarine;

-Selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMS),

Steroidal Hormone antagonists and modulators

Aromatase inhibitors

Myostatin antagonists

The anti-oestrogenic drugs Tamoxifen and Clomiphene

Other Hormonal antagonists e.g.

Selective opiate receptor modulators (SORMS) and selective glucocorticoid receptor agonists.

Trophic Hormones

-Chorionic Gonadotrophin (CG) and Luteinizing Hormone (LH) in males;

AMPK activators, including but not limited to AICAR (5-amino-1-β Dribofuranosyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide).

Masking Agents: -

Any substance capable of disguising or making undetectable the administration or presence of any Permanently Banned Prohibited Substance.

Prohibited Substances

Schedule 3

Any licensed medicine affecting body systems, which potentially can alter or modify performance, and which use cannot be traced to, legitimate veterinary therapy, nor verified by an authorized veterinary prescription issued for bona fide therapeutic purposes only.

In this context " a medicine "is any substance capable of affecting a greyhound by its action on the central or peripheral nervous system or any part of that system such as the autonomic nervous system, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, alimentary digestive system, musculoskeletal system, genitourinary or endocrine system and includes, for example, analgesics, antihistamines, anti-inflammatory agents, blood coagulants, corticosteroids, local anaesthetics.

Prohibited Substances

Schedule 4

Exempted Substances

"Exempted substances' include

- (i) licensed medicines expressly prescribed by a Veterinarian for the specific purpose of regulating or preventing oestrus in a female greyhound only.
- (ii) Antimicrobials (antibiotics) and other anti-infective agent,
- (iii) Antiparasitics approved and registered for the use on canines,
- (iv). Vaccines against infectious agents,
- (v) Insecticides

Prohibited Substances

Schedule 5

Threshold Substances

The following substances are deemed prohibited when found in excess of the threshold:

- (1) Unusual or abnormal amounts of endogenous substances, including but not limited to cortisol and testosterone.
- (2) Hydrocortisone (cortisol) in excess of a concentration of 1000 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine.

(3) Testosterone as evidenced by the presence of 5 β -androstane-3 α ,17 β -diol in excess of a concentration of 10 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine taken from a bitch.

(4) Testosterone as evidenced by the presence of 5 β -androstane-3 α , 17 β -diol in excess of a concentration of 100 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine taken from a male greyhound.

(4) Cobalt in excess of 100 nanograms /ml of urine

(5) Arsenic in excess of a concentration of 800 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine.

(6) 3-methoxytyramine in excess of a concentration of 1600 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine.

(7) Caffeine in excess of 6 mcg/ml of urine.

Article 2

Responsibility of Owner and Trainer

- (a) The Owner must make it unambiguously clear at all times to the club, as to who the owner is and if the owner is not the trainer, he/she shall notify the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club accordingly (see form Appendix B).
- (b) The Owner or nominated trainer is at all times responsible for greyhounds under his/her care and must take complete responsibility at all times for his/her staff in terms of Rule 88.
- (c) All Owners and or Trainers should be acquainted with the Rules of the ICC as they apply to the definition of "Prohibited Substances".
- (d) The Owner and/or Trainer is at all times responsible for the correct use of veterinary medicines in his/her premises, and it is incumbent on him/ her to ensure that his/her staff are adequately trained on all such relevant matters.
- (e) The trainer must ensure that his /her staff is well briefed, and particularly knowledgeable on the specific issue of "prohibited substances" and that they are also competent, at all times, to ensure the correct administration of medicines to the correct greyhound as prescribed by the veterinary surgeon.
- (f) Under the National legislation regulating possession and use of veterinary medicines in Ireland, { European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No.2) Regulations 2007---S. 786 of 2007_} a veterinary medicine is deemed an authorised medicine only if it has been assessed and granted a veterinary product authorisation (VPA number) by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) or an EU number by the European Medicines Agency (i.e. centrally authorised), or is authorised under a special licence issued by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM).

- (g) Only authorised medicines as outlined above may be purchased, stored, kept on premises, dispensed or used to treat greyhounds in Ireland and all greyhound owners, trainers and personnel must comply with the provisions of the current veterinary medicines legislation

Article 3

Responsible Use of Medicines

Guidelines for all persons in control of greyhounds

1. The following general guidelines are provided in order to reduce the occurrence of inadvertent coursing day positives arising from the presence of Prohibited Substances in sample from a greyhound.
2. Proper liaison and regular communication with your Veterinary Surgeon is essential at all times to ensure correct use of therapeutic medicines. You must ensure that only the appropriate prescribed medicines are used, and that they are withdrawn at the correct time prior to racing, in accordance with the professional judgement and opinion of the veterinary surgeon.
3. All persons in control of a greyhound should be acquainted with the Rule 88 as it applies to the definition of “Prohibited Substances”.
4. All persons in control of a greyhound should be aware that it is possible, licensed medicines are in fact Prohibited Substances if detected in a competition day sample.
5. All medicines should be kept in safe custody and stored in accordance with the requirements of current medicines legislation and unavailable, other than to authorised kennel personnel.
6. Medicines must not be left carelessly dispersed around premises and kennels or subject to free and unsupervised availability.
7. All medicines must be clearly labelled.
8. All greyhounds must be clearly and correctly identified before they receive a medicine.
9. All persons in charge of a greyhound must ensure that they are well briefed and particularly knowledgeable on the specific issue of Prohibited Substances and that they are also competent, at all times, to ensure the correct administration of medicines to the correct greyhound, as prescribed by the Veterinary Surgeon. It is desirable that one person only in any kennel establishment is permitted to administer medicines.
10. (a) Only authorised bona fide medicines in compliance with the requirements of current medicines legislation may be administered to greyhounds.

(b) Only authorised bona fide medicines in compliance with the requirements of current medicines legislation may be kept or stored on greyhound premises.

11. A person in control of a greyhound is at all times responsible for the correct use of medicines in his premises, and it is incumbent on him/her to ensure that his/her staff are adequately trained on all such relevant matters. Further, he/she must ensure that following consultation with the Veterinary Surgeon, that they will be requested to take responsibility for medicines administration, only on the direct instruction of the trainer.
12. It is advisable, that at all times, the administration of a medicine to a kennelled dog is witnessed by the Trainer or his/her authorised representative to avoid error.
13. It is an offence under these rules to have possession of, to store, or to use "substances prohibited at all times" as defined under Schedule 2 of Article 1 Rule 88
14. Importation or acquiring of unlicensed medicines, by whatever means, or over the internet or by any other means is an offence under these rules.

Article 4

Inspection of Premises

Every premises where coursing greyhounds are kept, is liable to inspection by authorised officers of the ICC, to ensure that the highest standards of animal welfare are being observed, and that medicines and other registers are being properly maintained. Such inspections shall be unannounced, random or targeted, and may also involve the taking of samples for out of competition testing if this is deemed necessary by authorised officers of the ICC, and to ensure that substances prohibited at all time are not being kept on the premises.

Article 5

Sampling of Greyhounds. A and B Samples

(To be read in conjunction with APPENDIX A: "Sample Taking Procedure")

1. Where the Stewards of a coursing meeting or the Executive Committee and/ or the Secretary have requested or instructed a testing official to take specimens for the purposes of testing a greyhound, the testing official shall be entitled to take from the greyhound such specimens of its excreta, urine, blood, saliva or other bodily fluids or tissues, as the testing official considers appropriate or convenient. In the event that sample required is blood, the taking of such sample shall only be performed by a veterinary surgeon. The samples shall be taken in the presence of the responsible person.

2. The Stewards of a coursing meeting may, or the Executive Committee may, or the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club may direct a testing official, to carry out or cause to be carried out such a test or tests as they shall deem necessary in relation to a greyhound, which:
 - (a) has been entered for, or has competed in, an event, and/or
 - (b) has been presented for any test or examination for the purposes of ascertaining its fitness to course.

For the purposes of this Rule:

- (a) the testing official may detain a greyhound at such location, for such a period and under such conditions as he thinks proper for the purposes of obtaining a sample; and
 - (b) no liability shall lie against the testing official, the stewards, the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club, the Executive Committee of the Irish Coursing Club, or their servants or agents for any loss or damage howsoever sustained.
3. The urine sample and/or other sample type is collected by the testing official in the presence of the Responsible Person and split into an "A" Sample and a "B" sample, both of which are then sealed into the official, currently approved tamper proof/evident containers in the presence of the Responsible Person.

Where blood Samples are collected, the Veterinary Surgeon collects the blood Sample in the presence of the Responsible Person and splits it into an "A" Sample and a "B" Sample bottle both of which are then sealed into approved tamperproof containers in the presence of the Responsible Person
4. If it is not possible to obtain a "B" sample, this does not nullify the test and the "A" sample is sent for analysis in any event.
5. The Responsible Person shall then print their name on and sign the sampling details form as a witness to the collection and sealing procedure and that sample was taken in accordance with Rule 88 Appendix A.
6. The ICC shall then arrange for the "A" Sample to be sent to the designated Laboratory for analysis and the same Laboratory shall retain the "B" Sample in accordance with best international practice and protocols.
7. On receipt of the Laboratory Report on the "A" Sample, the ICC shall advise the Responsible Person if the Report from the Laboratory indicates that a breach of the Rules governing Prohibited Substances may have been committed, and shall inform the Responsible Person that he/she has the right, within 7 days, to require the "B" sample to be sent to a designated and approved Laboratory for analysis, at the expense of the Responsible Person, in default of which the original Laboratory Report

will be placed before the Independent Hearing Committee for adjudication on the matter.

8. If the Responsible Person requires the "B" Sample to be sent for analysis, the ICC shall arrange for the "B" Sample to be sent to the nominated Laboratory from list approved by the Executive Committee.
9. On receipt of the B sample Laboratory Report, the ICC shall advise the Responsible Person of the result of the analysis. If the Report on the "B" Sample also indicates that a breach of the Rules governing Prohibited Substances may have been committed the ICC shall advise the Responsible Person that the two Laboratory Reports will be placed before the Independent Hearings Committee.
10. If the report on the "B" sample indicates a negative finding and that a breach of the Rules has not been committed, the entire test shall be considered negative and the Responsible Person shall be entitled to a refund of the cost of the analysis of the "B" Sample.

In such case no action will be taken

11. In any hearing for a breach of these Rules any samples taken shall be presumed without further proof to have been properly taken.
12. The responsible person in charge of the greyhound at the time, on being notified that the greyhound has been selected for sampling shall present the greyhound for sampling to the nominated testing official and such person in charge shall remain present at the taking of a specimen. The person in charge shall provide all relevant documentation requested by the testing official relating to the sample as instructed by the testing official and shall sign all documentation provided by the testing official. Failure to comply is a breach of these Rules and may be treated as a breach of these Rules.
13. Should any person obstruct or impede the taking of a sample under these rules, or should the responsible person fail to present said greyhound for the taking of a sample under these rules, then the responsible person shall be liable to the sanctions as contained under this rule.

Article 6

Sample Analysis and Notifications

(A) Certification of Analysis

1. Where a sample taken from a greyhound has been analysed by a nominated and accredited laboratory by the ICC pursuant to Rule 88, an analysis certificate signed by such an accredited laboratory officer shall be regarded as *prima facie* evidence of the matters contained therein for the purpose of any proceedings in accordance with these Rules.
2. Where in any proceedings pursuant to these Rule 88 it is necessary to prove that a substance is a prohibited substance or is a substance prohibited at all times as defined in under Rule 88, a certificate signed by an expert veterinary surgeon, or expert veterinary pharmacologist, or expert pharmacist approved by the ICC, shall be regarded as *prima facie* evidence of the matters contained therein for the purpose of any proceedings in accordance with these Rules.

(B) Notification of positive analysis

1. When a prohibited substance or a substance prohibited at all times has been found upon analysis to be present in a sample taken from a greyhound which has been nominated or presented for, or competed at a coursing event, the ICC shall, upon receipt of the accredited laboratory's certificate pursuant to Rule 88 (Article 7 (A)1) officially notify the responsible person which maybe any or all of the following: the owner, trainer and /or person that witnessed the sample being taking that any inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the presence of the prohibited substance or a substance prohibited at all times is to be held as soon as possible.

Article 7

CONDUCT OF ENQUIRY

1. Whenever the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club shall have received notification from an analyst that a prohibited substance has been found upon analysis to be present in a sample taken from a greyhound under these Rules, the Secretary shall, as soon as may be, upon receipt of the certificate showing positive for a prohibited substance under Rule 88, notify the responsible person which maybe any or all of the following: the owner, trainer and /or person that witnessed the sample being taking, and the Executive Committee of the findings of the analyst. The owner and/or trainer and/or representative shall be further notified that the said greyhound is provisionally suspended from coursing, racing (NI) and breeding until the hearing has concluded. Unless within the period of 14 days (or such further period as the Secretary shall allow) the Responsible Person admits to a breach of these Rules herein and signs the Notice of Acceptance of Breach Form referred to at Article 13.1 within 14 days, the Secretary shall notify the parties that an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding

the presence of the drug will be held as soon as possible before the Hearing Committee.

2. A result of an analysis referred to in paragraph Article 8.1 which is reported to the Secretary to be positive for a prohibited substance shall be referred to in Rule 88 as "an adverse analytical finding".
3. Where the result of an analysis being made available to the owner and/or trainer and/or responsible person of the greyhound is an adverse analytical finding, the owner and/or trainer and/or responsible person shall be informed that the finding will be published in accordance with the provisions of Article 8.4.
4. Upon the receipt by the Secretary of an adverse analytical finding and after having met the requirements of Article 8.3 and prior to an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the presence of the drug being held before the Hearing Committee, a notice shall appear in the Sporting Press newspaper notifying that:
 - (i) The Secretary has received such an adverse analytical finding;
 - (ii) The name of the prohibited substance;
 - (iii) The name of the greyhound concerned;
 - (iv) The name of the registered owner(s) and or guardian at the time of the taking of such sample or the trainer if previously nominated by the owner;
 - (v) The date upon which and the place at which the said sample was taken
 - (vi) That the greyhound in question is provisionally suspended from coursing, racing (NI) and breeding until the hearing has concluded.
5. In any hearing before the Executive Committee of the Irish Coursing Club or any Independent Hearing Committee, Appeal Committee or Sub-Committee the burden of proving a breach of these rules shall be on the Executive Committee or person or persons nominated for that purpose at a Hearing to the standard of the *balance of probabilities*. That is to say that any fact in contention is more probable than not. Any matter provided in these Rules as being *prima Facie* evidence shall be deemed proved unless the contrary is proved.
6. The Executive Committee or any Independent Hearing Committee or any Appeal Committee or Sub-Committee may require the attendance of and provision of evidence by the registered owner or any other person, who, in the opinion of the Committee or the Secretary, may have knowledge of any of the matters which are the subject of an inquiry. Any person who upon due notice being given in accordance with this rule neglects or refuses to appear to respond to any questions or to produce such subjects or information as may be required shall be guilty of a breach of these Rules.
7. If the Executive Committee or Secretary order an inquiry to be held in accordance with Rule 88, the Secretary shall notify any person or persons liable to be the subject of an adverse ruling by such inquiry (hereinafter called 'the Affected Person' which expression shall include the plural) that such an inquiry is taking place and that an adverse ruling may be made against such person or persons, the Secretary shall notify

such person or persons of the time, date and place appointed for the holding of such inquiry. The date so appointed shall be not less than 21 days after the giving of such notification unless the owner and/or trainer request an expedited hearing. The Executive Committee nor any Independent Hearing Committee nor any Appeal Committee shall make such adverse finding against any person unless notice in accordance with this Sub-Rule shall have been given and matter should be re-convened.

8. After receiving notification under Rule 88 of this Rule, the Affected Person shall be entitled to attend the inquiry in person and/or to be represented by Counsel and/or Solicitors and/or by any other person.
9. Unless the Secretary directs otherwise, the Affected Person, no later than 7 days (unless an expedited hearing is requested) before any inquiry to be held under this Rule, shall:
 - (a) Notify the Secretary in writing of his/her intention to attend the inquiry and the name(s) of any Counsel, Solicitors or other person who shall represent the Affected Person at the inquiry. If such person is not legally qualified the name, address and qualifications of such person shall be notified to the Secretary. The Executive Committee or the Secretary shall have the right to object before any hearing to such person, not being a legally qualified person;
 - (b) The Secretary shall provide to the Affected Person a copy of each document to be provided to the inquiry;
 - (c) Provide to the Affected Person a copy of a statement in writing from any witness who intends to give evidence to the inquiry. Each witness statement shall state the name and purpose of the proposed witness and shall be signed and dated.
 - (d) The owner, trainer, person in charge or any affected person intending to give evidence at the inquiry shall provide to the Secretary not less than 7 days before the inquiry:
 - (i) the names and addresses of any witness to be called;
 - (ii) Provide to the Secretary a copy of any statement in writing from any person upon which the Affected Person intends to rely at the Inquiry. Each witness statement shall state the name and address of the proposed witness and shall be signed and dated;
 - (iii) forward copies of any documents written or digital or any film photograph or other image the Affected Person intends to rely on at the Inquiry.
10. All written depositions and written submissions must be made on the concluding day of the hearing.

Article 8

CONDUCT OF PERSON AT HEARING

1. A person shall be guilty of a breach of this Rule if he or she-
 - (a) Wilfully influences or attempts to influence any member of the Independent Hearing Committee or the Testing Official or any party, witness or person concerned in any way with the hearing to be or being conducted;
 - (b) Wilfully interrupts a hearing;
 - (c) Misconducts himself or herself in any matter before the Independent Hearing Committee as the Independent Hearing Committee shall in its absolute discretion decide.

Article 9

INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMITTEE

1. The Independent Hearing Committee shall consist of persons not less than 3 who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Irish Coursing Club.
2. The term of office for members of the Independent Hearing Committee will be three years but retiring members will be eligible for reappointment. The term of a member shall continue in respect of any Hearing that has not finally concluded.
3. No member of the Independent Hearing Committee may be a member of the Executive Committee, an employee of the Irish Coursing Club or an Official licenced by the Irish Coursing Club.
4. At least one legally qualified person and one veterinarian shall be appointed to the Independent Hearing Committee. The Hearing Committee shall elect a person to be Chairperson. The Independent Hearing Committee may select from among its members a person to chair any particular enquiry.
5. A member of the Independent Hearing Committee may resign at any time his/her membership by letter addressed to the Executive Committee or Secretary, and the resignation shall take effect from the date of receipt of the letter.
6. A member of the Independent Hearing Committee shall, unless he sooner dies, retires or otherwise ceases to be a member, hold office as such member until the expiration of his or her term of office.
7. A member of the Independent Hearing Committee shall cease to be a member:
 - a. on being adjudicated bankrupt;
 - b. on making a composition or arrangement with creditors;
 - c. on being sentenced to imprisonment on conviction on indictment;
 - d. on ceasing to be ordinarily resident in the State;
 - e. if removed by the Executive Committee for stated reasons.
8. Members of the Independent Hearing Committee shall be paid such remuneration and expenses as the Executive Committee determine.

9. If any member of the Independent Hearing Committee shall be personally concerned with or interested in any greyhound the subject of an inquiry or in any greyhound competing in the same course or if for any reason is not independent shall stand down from the Committee for that inquiry. The Executive Committee or the Secretary may nominate a replacement for that inquiry.

Article 10

MEETINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMITTEE

1. At a meeting of the Independent Hearing Committee:
 - (a) The quorum shall be three.
 - (b) The chairperson, if present, shall be chairman of the meeting unless the Committee decide otherwise.
 - (c) If and so long as the chairperson is not present or the office of chairperson is vacant, the members present shall appoint one of their numbers to be chairperson of the meeting.
 - (d) Every question shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present voting on the question; and if there is equal division of vote, then the chairperson of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
 - (e) The Independent Hearing Committee may act notwithstanding one or more than one vacancy in its membership. Where a vacancy occurs, the Executive Committee shall take steps to fill the vacancy as soon as is practicable. Members of the Committee conducting any inquiry shall attend every date of hearing of that inquiry. Only a member who has attended every hearing date shall vote on the decisions of the Committee provided that no interim ruling of the Committee shall be invalidated by reason of a member subsequently not attending.
 - (f) Subject to Rule 88, the Independent Hearing Committee may regulate by standing orders or otherwise the procedure and business of the Independent Hearing Committee.
 - (g) The hearing shall as far as practicable be recorded by shorthand or such recording apparatus or such other means as the Independent Hearing Committee determine; the record of any proceedings shall be retained for a period of not less than 12 months after the date on which the proceedings are finalised.
 - (h) The Independent Hearing Committee shall make known their decision to the affected person(s) and the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club on whether a breach of rule 88 has been proved either:

- (i) On the day the hearing concludes or;
 - (ii) Not later than 14 days after the conclusion of such hearing to the affected person and the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.
- (l) Where the Independent Hearing Committee determines that a breach of Rule 88 has occurred, it shall thereafter accept in writing from the Irish Coursing Club (not later than 7 days after Notification of the Decision) the Club's submissions on any or all of the following:
- (i) discretionary sanctions that may be imposed under Article 14(2) and/or
 - (ii) previous breaches of Rule 88 by any Affect Person or Persons.
 - (iii) a summary of the costs and expenses (including legal costs) actually and reasonably incurred by the Irish Coursing Club relating to a Hearing
- (j) Where the Independent Hearing Committee determines that a breach of Rule 88 has occurred, it shall thereafter accept in writing from the Affect Person or Persons (not later than 7 days after Notification of the Decision) any submission on:
- (i) The mitigation of discretionary sanctions that may be imposed under Article 14(2).
- (k) Upon receipt of the submissions set out at Sub-Articles (e) and (f) above, the Independent Hearing Committee shall impose the sanctions set out at Article 13 and make an Order for costs under Article 16.

Article 11

INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMITTEE DISCRETION TO REOPEN HEARING/APPEAL AGAINST HEARING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

1. Notwithstanding any decision of the Independent Hearing Committee, at the conclusion of any Hearing, the Committee that adjudicated at that hearing may, upon the request of any party to a Hearing or any party affected by the outcome and including on the application of the Executive Committee, order a reopening of any Hearing if they have reason to believe that, because of the receipt of relevant evidence not previously available or for any other reason, a balanced and proportionally correct decision may not have been made or that other changes in circumstances make it just for a decision to be reviewed. This right shall not be exercised after a period of 2 months from the making of the final decision unless the Executive Committee shall for reasons stated so direct;
2. Such reopened hearing can be a re-hearing or a continuation of the former hearing as the Independent Hearing Committee deem fair and appropriate and at the conclusion

thereof the Independent Hearing Committee shall make such decision as they think fit;

3. Any person the subject of an Independent Hearing Committee inquiry who is aggrieved by the decision at a hearing re-opened hearing held under section 1 above shall be entitled to appeal to the Appeal Committee.

Article 12

SANCTIONS:

1. WHERE A NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF BREACH FORM IS SIGNED BY AFFECTED PERSONS: THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY SANCTIONS APPLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES AND WILL NOT REQUIRE A HEARING BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMITTEE AND THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS SHALL AUTOMATICALLY APPLY:

(a) SCHEDULE 5 THRESHOLD SUBSTANCE:

The Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club deals with the matter on a summary basis as follows.

- (i) a mandatory fine of €1000 applies to affected person and greyhound is suspended for three months during a coursing season.
- (ii) the greyhound is suspended from breeding and racing (NI) for a period of three months.
- (iii) The greyhound shall be disqualified from the stake in question.
- (iv) The prize-money shall be forfeited.
- (v) The trophy or trophies shall be forfeited.

(b) SCHEDULE 1 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

The Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club deals with the matter on a summary basis as follows.

- (i) a mandatory fine of €2000 applies to affected person and greyhound is suspended for four months during a coursing season.
- (ii) the greyhound is suspended from breeding and racing (NI) for a period of four months.
- (iii) The greyhound shall be disqualified from the stake in question.
- (iv) The prize-money shall be forfeited.
- (v) The trophy or trophies shall be forfeited.

(c) SCHEDULE 2 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

The Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club deals with the matter on a summary basis as follows:

- (i) a mandatory fine of €3000 applies to affected person and greyhound is suspended for five months during a coursing season.
- (ii) the greyhound is suspended from breeding and racing (NI) for a period of five months.
- (iii) The greyhound shall be disqualified from the stake in question.
- (iv) The prize-money shall be forfeited.
- (v) The trophy or trophies shall be forfeited.

However, if any of the affected persons associated with a greyhound with an adverse analytical finding have been previously found in breach of Rule 88, then the matter shall be placed before the Independent Hearing Committee for adjudication in accordance with Article 13.

Article 13

SANCTIONS CONTINUED:

1. WHEREBY NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF BREACH FORM IS NOT SIGNED BY AFFECTED PERSONS AS DETERMIEND BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ICC: THE FOLLOWING MANDATORY SANCTIONS AND DISCRETIONARY SANCTIONS APPLY UNDER THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES AND WILL REQUIRE A HEARING BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMITTEE:

(a) SCHEDULE 5 THRESHOLD SUBSTANCE:

- (i) a mandatory fine of €2000 applies affected person and greyhound is suspended for four months during a coursing season.
- (ii) Independent Hearing Committee may impose an additional sanction up to €4000 on the owner, trainer or any other affected person found in breach of Rule 88.
- (iii) the greyhound is suspended from breeding and racing (NI) for a period of four months.
- (iv) The greyhound shall be disqualified from the stake in question.
- (v) The prize-money shall be forfeited.
- (vi) The trophy or trophies shall be forfeited.

(b) SCHEDULE 1 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

- (i) a mandatory fine of €4000 applies to affected person and greyhound is suspended for six months during a coursing season.
- (ii) Independent Hearing Committee may impose an additional sanction up to €7500 on the owner, trainer or any other affected person found in breach of Rule 88.

- (iii) the greyhound is suspended from breeding and racing (NI) for a period of six months.
- (iv) The greyhound shall be disqualified from the stake in question.
- (v) The prize-money shall be forfeited.
- (vi) The trophy or trophies shall be forfeited.

(c) SCHEDULE 2 PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE:

- (i) a mandatory fine of €5000 applies to affected person and greyhound is suspended for six months during a coursing season.
- (ii) Independent Hearing Committee may impose an additional sanction up to €8000 on the owner, trainer or any other affected person found in breach of Rule 88.
- (iii) the greyhound is suspended from breeding and racing (NI) for a period of six months.
- (iv) The greyhound shall be disqualified from the stake in question.
- (v) The prize-money shall be forfeited.
- (vi) The trophy or trophies shall be forfeited.

2. ADDITIONAL DISCRETIONARY SANCTIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL SCHEDULES AS DECIDED BY INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMITTEE

- (i) The registered owner(s) of a disqualified greyhound may be warned off from all coursing meetings, greyhound tracks including greyhound sales, registering greyhounds and an Exclusion Order may be made against him under the terms of the Greyhound Industry Act 1958.
- (ii) The Trainer of a greyhound deemed in breach of this rule may be warned off from all coursing meetings, greyhound tracks including greyhound sales, registering greyhounds and an Exclusion Order may be made against him under the terms of the Greyhound Industry Act 1958.
- (iii) Any other person deemed in breach of this rule may be warned off from all coursing meetings, greyhound tracks including greyhound sales, registering greyhounds, and an Exclusion Order may be made against him under the terms of the Greyhound Industry Act 1958.
- (iv) Unless the Hearing Committee determine otherwise, a fine imposed shall be paid to the Irish Coursing Club within 7 days of the date upon which the person is notified of the penalty, or in the event of an appeal when the fine is upheld, either in whole or in part, within 7 days of the date when the fine is upheld.

3. FAILURE TO PAY FINES

- (i) In the event of a fine or other monetary sanction remaining unpaid, the greyhound remains suspended from breeding, coursing and racing (NI) until all monies are paid in full.
- (ii) In the event of a payment schedule being agreed, the greyhound remains suspended from breeding, coursing and racing (NI) until monies are paid in full.

4. PUBLICATION OF DECISION

- (i) The outcome of a summary case or an inquiry before the Independent Hearing Committee shall be published in the Sporting Press newspaper or other media as decided by the Executive Committee.

Article 14

PENALTIES ISSUED BY THE HEARING COMMITTEE

1. The purpose of the inquiry into the administration of prohibited substances to greyhounds and the penalties to be issued by the Hearing Committee aim to achieve the following:
 - a. protect the welfare of the greyhound;
 - b. protect the integrity of coursing;
 - c. maintain public confidence in coursing;
 - d. maintain proper standards for all participants of coursing;
 - e. to bring about a positive behavioural change;
 - f. a sanction may be accompanied by an advisory notice to point out what changes in behaviour or attitude are required;
2. In considering any matter within its jurisdiction, the Independent Hearing Committee or Appeal Committee shall be entitled to consider the objects of the Club as set forth in the Rules and may have regard to the interests of the public, owners, trainers or other participants in coursing.

Article 15

APPEAL PROCEDURES

1. The Appeal Committee shall hear an appeal from any person who is sanctioned by the Hearing Committee decision at an inquiry. The conditions of Appeal, procedures for application for Appeal, and conduct of an Appeal are as follows:
 - a. There shall be a panel of persons not less than three and not more than five in number eligible to sit on the Appeal Committee which shall be convened to hear appeals from decisions of the Independent Hearing Committee to the extent permitted by Rule 88.

- b. The Executive Committee shall appoint a person eligible to serve as Chairperson of the Appeal Committee. No member of the Independent Hearing Committee that adjudicated on the decision shall be eligible to be Chairperson of the Appeal Committee or be a member of the Appeal Committee.
- c. Only a member or former member of the Judiciary, Senior Counsel, Barrister or Solicitor of at least seven years call or admission shall be eligible to be a Chairperson of the Appeal Committee.
- d. The Executive Committee shall appoint the persons eligible to serve as members of the Appeals Committee. No member of the Executive Committee, employee of the Irish Coursing Club or Licensed Official can be a member of the Appeal Committee
- e. The Executive Committee shall make reasonable remuneration to the members of the Appeal Committee when serving on an Appeal Committee.
- f. The members of the Appeal Committee shall serve between 1-3 years unless they resign earlier. A member of the Appeal Committee (including the Chairperson) may be required to resign from the Appeal Committee at the request of the majority of members of the Appeal Committee. At the end of his/her term as a member of the Appeal Committee, a person may be elected for a further term of 1-3 years by the Executive Committee.

CONVENING OF THE APPEAL COMMITTEE

- 2. Upon notification of receipt by the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club of a Notice of Appeal, the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee shall convene an Appeal Committee consisting of him/herself and at least two persons chosen by him/herself from the person eligible to serve on the Appeal Committee.
- 3. The Secretary of the ICC shall in consultation with the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee appoint an employee from within the Irish Coursing Club to provide administrative support to the Appeal Committee as required.

COMMENCEMENT OF APPEAL

- 4. A person wishing to appeal a decision of the Independent Hearing Committee (“the Appellant”) shall lodge a Notice of Appeal with the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club within 7 working days after the date on which the decision appealed against was made.
- 5. Any notice of appeal lodged outside the 7 day period will not be considered.
- 6. The Notice of Appeal shall:
 - a. State the specific decision(s) being appealed;
 - b. State the decision(s) being sought from the Appeal Committee;
 - c. Set out the ground(s) of appeal and the substantive injustice of allowing the decision appealed against to stand;
 - d. Set out in summary form the facts upon which the appeal is based;

- e. Attach a copy of every document and witness statement that was placed before the Independent Hearing Committee in connection with the decision appealed against;
- f. State whether the Appellant seeks an oral hearing of the appeal and the time estimated for such hearing;
- g. Be signed by the Appellant, or his/her Counsel, Solicitors or other representative;
- h. The Appellant shall lodge the sum of €500 as the appeal fee with the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club within seven days after the disputed decision was made;
- i. An appellant who seeks relief from the requirement to lodge the appeal fee on account of hardship (which shall be the sole relevant consideration) shall lodge with the Notice of Appeal a statement requesting relief from the appeal fee requirement, setting out the relevant grounds and facts supporting the claim of hardship, and attaching any relevant evidence;
- j. The request for relief shall be considered by the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee without an oral hearing and whose decision to grant partial or total relief shall be final and with no obligation to explain;
- k. The appeal fee or any part of the appeal fee shall be repaid or withheld as the Appeal Committee so directs.
- l. The Executive Committee or Appeal Committee may specify a form to be completed by an appellant.

CONDUCT OF APPEAL

- 7. The Chairperson of the Appeal Committee may, upon application of the Appellant or otherwise, give any direction or instruction considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. lengthening or shortening any time limit;
 - b. adapting or dispensing with any procedural steps set out in these conditions;
 - c. requiring a record to be made of the proceedings or any part of them;
 - d. ordering any person bound by the Rules of the Irish Coursing Club to attend hearing;
 - e. holding a preliminary hearing;
 - f. suspending the decision of the Independent Hearing Committee pending determination of the appeal;
 - g. adjourning a hearing for such a period and upon such terms as he/she considers appropriate;
 - h. the decision of the Chairperson in respect of the matters set out above shall be final.
 - i. Other than on the exercise of any right of appeal provided for by the Rules, a person who fails to abide by any decision of the Independent Hearing Committee made at an inquiry shall be guilty of breach of these Rules.

8. The Chairperson of the Appeal Committee may dismiss an appeal with or without granting the Appellant an oral hearing if the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee is satisfied that the Appeal is frivolous, vexatious or brought for any improper purpose.
9. Subject to the Appellant requesting an oral hearing in a Notice of Appeal which complies with the provisions regarding commencement of the appeal as contained above, the Appellant shall be entitled to an oral hearing of the appeal. If the Appellant requests an oral hearing of the appeal to which he/she is entitled, the Appeal Committee shall notify the Appellant in writing of the time, date and place of the oral hearing. Such notice shall be provided no later than 14 days before the proposed date of the oral hearing.
10. If the Appellant fails to comply with the provisions for lodging an appeal or if the Appellant fails to attend a duly notified oral hearing, then the Appeal Committee may proceed to consider and determine the appeal in the absence of the Appellant in such manner as it considers appropriate.
11. The Appeal shall be considered by the Appeal Committee and shall be by way of review of the inquiry.
12. The Appeal Committee shall not consider new evidence other than in an appeal against the refusal of the Independent Hearing Committee to consider such evidence.
13. The Appeal Committee may in its absolute discretion hear such oral evidence as it determines is relevant. The Appeal Committee shall conduct the appeal hearing in such a manner as it considers fit and otherwise in accordance with the Rules of the Irish Coursing Club. Any such hearings shall be in private unless the Appeals Committee otherwise direct.
14. The Appeal Committee shall reach its decision on any issue on the appeal by a majority, and if the Appeal Committee fails to reach a majority decision on any issue, the decision of the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee shall be final.
15. The Appeal Committee may confirm, reverse or otherwise vary the decision of the Independent Hearing Committee. The Appeal Committee shall have all of the powers that were available to the Independent Hearing Committee in respect of the original decision.
16. The Appeal Committee shall announce its decision to the Appellant as soon as is practicable in such a manner as it considers appropriate but not later than 14 days from making the decision. The Appeal Committee shall provide reasons for the decision and shall publish these reasons in such manner as the Chairperson determines appropriate.

Article 16

COSTS

1. The Hearing Committee/Appeal Committee shall order the Affected Person or Persons to pay the full costs of and expenses (including legal costs) actually and reasonably incurred by the Irish Coursing Club relating to a Hearing and/or Appeal. The Irish Coursing Club shall submit a summary of its costs and expenses (including legal costs) to the Hearing Committee/Appeal Committee at the conclusion of the Inquiry pursuant to Rule 88.11(iii).
2. Costs ordered to be paid by the Hearing Committee/Appeal Committee may be recovered by the Irish Coursing Club as a simple contract debt in a court of competent jurisdiction.

FAILURE TO PAY COSTS

3. In the event of costs as ordered to be paid by the Hearing Committee/Appeal Committee remaining unpaid, the Affected Person or Persons shall be placed on the forfeit list in accordance with Rule 127 of the Irish Coursing Club Rules.

COSTS OF AFFECTED PERSON(S)

4. Where an Affected Person or Persons successfully rebuts the presumptions raised by Rule 88 and the Hearing Committee/Appeal Committee dismiss the complaint against the Affected Person or Persons, no order for costs shall be made against the Irish Coursing Club.

Article 17

FINALITY

1. The decision of the Independent Hearing Committee shall be final and binding on all matters unless there is an appeal to the Appeal Committee. The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be final and binding on all matters. No action shall be taken in any Court of Law to challenge or otherwise seek redress in relation to any decision of the Hearing Committee or the Appeal Committee.
2. If it shall be alleged by any party that there is an irregularity in the appointment of the Independent Hearing Committee or Appeal Committee, or that there is an irregularity in the procedure of either Committee and the party concerned has made complaint to that Committee, any party may apply to the Executive Committee specifying the irregularity complained of.
3. The Executive Committee shall consider such application and if satisfied that the complaint of irregularity is well founded and that such irregularity materially affected

the outcome, may annul the decision of that Committee and direct the holding of a new hearing or appeal.

4. The decision of the Executive Committee is final and binding and no proceedings in any Court of Law shall be taken in respect of such decision.

TRANSITION

5. The rescindment of the previous Rule 88 and the commencement of the 2018 Rule 88 does not, unless the contrary intention appears-
 - (a) revise anything not in force or existing at the time at which the rescinding took effect;
 - (b) affect the previous operation of the previous Rule 88 repealed or anything duly done or suffered pursuant to previous Rule 88;
 - (c) affect any right, interest, title power or privilege created, acquired, accrued, established or exercisable or any status or capacity existing prior to the rescinding;
 - (d) affect any duty, obligation, liability or burden of proof imposed, created or incurred prior to the rescinding;
 - (e) affect any penalty or forfeiture incurred or liable to be incurred in respect of any breach committed against the previous Rule;
 - (f) affect any investigation, legal proceeding, inquiry, or remedy in respect of any such right, interest, title, power, privilege, status, capacity, duty, obligation, liability, burden of proof, penalty or forfeiture; and any such investigation, legal proceeding, inquiry or remedy may be instituted, continued, or enforced, and any such penalty or forfeiture may be imposed and enforced as if the rescinding had not occurred.

INTERPRETATION

6. If any doubt or difficulty shall arise as to the interpretation of these Rules the Independent Hearing Committee, the Appeal Committee or any affected person may request the Executive Committee to provide a definitive ruling.
7. A definitive ruling as to the interpretation of these Rules shall be binding on all members and any person engaged in coursing at any level under these Rules and no proceedings of any kind in any Court shall be brought in respect of such interpretation.
8. The Executive Committee shall be bound by its own prior Interpretations which shall remain binding as if they were a Rule of the Club unless same shall have been modified, varied or incorporated into a Rule change by the members in General Meeting in accordance with these Rules.

APPENDIX A:

SAMPLE-TAKING PROCEDURE

1. The greyhound(s) selected for testing may be chosen by the Executive Committee, Secretary or by means of a public draw, the time and location of which are notified in advance to the general public prior to the draw.
2. The Executive Committee may vary the selection method but shall ensure the public are notified in advance of such change as they consider appropriate.
3. Identity Cards of all greyhounds the subject of a draw shall be held by the Testing Official until the greyhound(s) for testing are known with unselected greyhound's identity cards returned.
4. Testing Officials to arrange draw at completion of all finals (location and timing of draw to be announced over PA). Result to be announced over the PA also.
5. The Testing Official shall solely determine the sample type to be taken, be that urine or blood, hair or any other suitable body fluid or tissue.
6. The Testing Official shall have full discretion over the length of time to be allocated to sample taking procedure.
7. The testing official will identify himself/herself and inform the responsible person that the greyhound shall be submitted for a specimen test and confirm that the responsible person is 18 years or over before commencing sample procedure.
8. The testing official shall wear disposable plastic gloves as approved by the Executive Committee or if the testing official decides it is more appropriate for responsible person to take sample, then gloves shall be worn also.
9. The testing official shall open the sample kit (containing pre-coded sample bottle A and pre-coded sample bottle B, two plastic sealable bags and corresponding labels) and urine collection funnel (or any other collection device as approved by the Executive Committee of the Irish Coursing Club) in the presence of the responsible person.
10. The testing official shall identify the greyhound by reference to the earmark from identification papers supplied by the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club or the greyhounds Identity Card.
11. The testing official shall take an A and B (split) sample as far as possible.
12. A split sample shall only be of the same specimen type. A testing official will take all reasonable steps to obtain sufficient specimen to accommodate a split sample. Failure to obtain sufficient specimen for a split will not nullify the test.
13. The testing official shall use pre-coded sample bottle A for prime sample and pre-coded sample bottle B for a split sample (or another collection device as approved by the Executive Committee of the ICC).
14. On completing the specimen collection process, the testing official shall affix screw cap of sample bottle A to engage locking mechanism and place in plastic bag as provided in sample kit in presence of the responsible person.
15. In the event of sufficient urine for a split sample, the testing official shall pour urine from pre-coded sample bottle A into pre-coded sample bottle B in the presence of the responsible person and repeat actions noted at point 14.
16. The split sample shall be held by laboratory as nominated by the Executive Committee for storage until further written instruction is received from the owner and/or trainer

of the greyhound as to which approved laboratory to send the split sample for analysis. Whenever the owner or trainer requires an analysis of the split sample, a request for such analysis must be made to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club to be received not later than 7 days after the sample results are notified to the owner and/or trainer. A request made after such time shall not be valid. The split sample will not undergo analysis until the owner or trainer nominates a laboratory from an approved list of analysts. The Secretary will request the dispatch of the sample to a nominated laboratory on receipt of written instruction from the owner or trainer not later than 7 days from date of notification to the owner and/or trainer. The cost of storage, dispatching and analysing the split sample to be borne by the owner/trainer.

17. The sample details form shall be completed by the testing official and the responsible person and any other person noted on the form. A duplicate copy of the completed sample details form shall be given to the responsible person. The original is forwarded to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club and a copy retained by the testing official.
18. In the event of sample(s) not being dispatched on the day of collection, then it shall be placed in a standard fridge and dispatched by recorded post on the next available post day or as directed by the Secretary of the ICC.

APPENDIX B:

Owner declaration regarding the trainer of a greyhound form: -

OWNER:			
ADDRESS OF OWNER:			
GREYHOUND NAME:			
SIRE:			
DAM:			
COLOUR:			
TRAINER NAME:			
TRAINER ADDRESS:			
LOCATION OF KENNEL IF DIFFERENT:			
DATE GREYHOUND TRANSFERRED TO TRAINER			SIGNED BY OWNER: _____

APPENDIX C:

Cobalt in Coursing Greyhounds.

Cobalt: -

Cobalt is a heavy metal salt, which is present in all animals at very low trace levels. At high levels Cobalt is an inducer of hypoxia-like responses which increases erythropoietin (EPO) production in the body and therefore its potential abuse as a blood doping agent in coursing must be controlled

Similar to EPO in human athletes, it is believed that cobalt at high levels can assist in generating more red blood cells to carry oxygen through the body and thus allow an animal to perform at a peak level for longer without the onset of fatigue. Thus, cobalt is a substance that when abused can positively affect performance via increased oxygenation of muscles and tissues.

Cobalt is a naturally occurring trace element that is normally present in greyhounds at very low levels as a result of normal dietary intake. Cobalt is also present in the structure of vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin). Vitamin B12 is a water-soluble vitamin with a key role in the normal functioning of the brain and nervous system, and for the formation of blood. It is involved in the metabolism of every cell of the body, especially affecting DNA synthesis and regulation, as well as fatty acid synthesis and energy production

Abuse of Cobalt: -

In recent years the abuse of cobalt chloride as a doping agent has been widely reported in horseracing worldwide. Subsequently, such abuse with cobalt in greyhound competitions has been also reported.

The ICC view the abuse of cobalt as a serious issue and wish to advise trainers that such abuse is in conflict with Rule 88 and is a serious doping offence which will necessitate imposition of sanctions and penalties.

A New Urinary Threshold: -

the Irish Coursing Club have introduced a urinary threshold for cobalt of 100 ng/mL of urine. You are advised to be extremely cautious using products that contain cobalt - unless medically necessary- close to coursing as this may inadvertently lead to a rise in normal urinary cobalt levels. Thus, you should be extremely cautious using products that contain cobalt close to coursing as this may inadvertently lead to a rise in urinary cobalt levels.

Normal Use of Cobalt & Record Keeping: -

Although there is generally little medical indication for cobalt supplementation in a healthy greyhound fed a balanced diet, in the event that veterinary advice indicates a vitamin/cobalt supplement is required, it should be given at normal recommended doses in strict

compliance with the advice of the manufacturer, and an adequate withholding period must be followed prior to coursing.

Preparations of Cobalt: -

A number of vitamin preparations contain cobalt, as well as some parasiticides, drenches, nutritional supplements, oral and parenteral haematinics. The possession of unauthorised products containing cobalt is an offence under Rule 88.

Injection of cobalt supplements will lead to much higher levels of cobalt in blood and urine than oral supplements and therefore requires greater withholding periods prior to coursing than orally administered cobalt. Oral administration of some highly concentrated products will still lead to a breach of the cobalt urinary threshold and require an adequate withholding period.

Special care is required in the event of the legitimate use of Vitamin B 12 (cyanocobalamin) for therapeutic purposes as recommended by a veterinary surgeon.

Urine Samples: -

Where a sample of urine is taken from a coursing greyhound, a urine level exceeding the urinary threshold of 100ng/ml is deemed to be a positive finding and is a doping offence. In general, a minimum of at least seven days must elapse between administration of a normal dose of the substance and presentation for coursing. This time frame will however depend on the dose given, route of administration, product given, and frequency of administration.

APPENDIX D:

Medication and Competing: -

1. It is the policy of the Irish Coursing Club that the highest standards of animal welfare be applied to all greyhounds involved in the sport of coursing, and to all those animals under the control of the Irish Coursing Club. The ICC is intent on ensuring that the standard of health and safety measures adopted are in accordance with best practice and adhere to the requirements of the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011, and other pertinent animal welfare legislation. (Protection of Animals Act 1965, Animal Health & Welfare Act 2013, Control of Dogs Acts 1986 to 2010, Greyhound Industry Bill 2017 *The ICC points out that it is essential that any coursing greyhound requiring veterinary attention receives it promptly. It is against the law to deny a greyhound access to veterinary treatment if needed. Therefore, treatment for an illness must take priority over coursing.*

In addition, it is important to recognize that analgesia facilitating competing can conceal injury and make it worse, hence the unintended consequences of treatment should be part of all treatment considerations for coursing greyhounds. Consideration must always be given to the best interests of the greyhound, and how long a rest from coursing has been recommended to allow treatment and recovery. It may often be the case that if a greyhound requires significant medical treatment, it is probable that it is not fit to compete.

Thus, an ethical judgement call and decision must always be made in the interests of the welfare of the greyhound, between medication for a therapeutic reason on the one hand, and on the other hand the ethical wisdom of a decision to allow this animal to compete. The greyhound's welfare must always come first.

Any contravention in this regard will be viewed with the utmost seriousness by the Club and strict punitive sanctions will be imposed where transgressions are proven to have occurred.