

# RACE MEETING INJURY SCHEME

EFFECTIVE FROM 20 APRIL 2023



## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Race Meeting Injury Scheme (the **Scheme**) is to support the efforts of racing industry participants to treat and rehabilitate Greyhounds that have sustained serious injuries at Greyhound Races or Official Steward's Trials by providing reimbursement, up to a prescribed limit, for the cost of veterinary treatment, and a rehabilitation payment, where a Greyhound sustains an Eligible Injury.

The Scheme is administered by Racing Queensland in accordance with the terms and conditions contained herein (as updated and amended by Racing Queensland from time to time).

## 2. SCOPE

This Scheme applies to all Registered Greyhounds in accordance with the eligibility criteria contained herein.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

**Applicant** means the *trainer or owner* of a Greyhound that sustains an Eligible Injury and who applies to Racing Queensland (RQ) for reimbursement under the Scheme.

**Controlling Body** means a relevant body or entity, provided for by legislation as having control of Greyhound racing or an aspect of it in a state or territory of Australia or New Zealand.

**Eligible Injury** means an injury of the type specified in section 4.2.

**GAR** means the *Greyhound Australasia Rules* (as may be amended from time to time).

**Greyhound** means a Greyhound registered with a Controlling Body as being eligible to participate in a Greyhound Race and/or Official Steward's Trial.

**Greyhound Race** means a Race of Greyhounds conducted at a licenced venue in Queensland.

**Official Steward's Trial** means an official trial:

- (a) that is conducted by a *Steward*;
- (b) that is held on the same day as a *Greyhound Race*; and
- (c) in which each Greyhound that is trialling is checked by an *on-course veterinarian* prior to trialling.

**On-course veterinarian** means a veterinarian engaged by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) or a Club to officiate at a *Greyhound Race* or *Official Steward's Trial*.

**Off-course veterinarian** means a veterinarian, operating in a private capacity, to which a Greyhound has been presented as a result of that Greyhound sustaining an injury during a *Greyhound Race* or *Official Steward's Trial*.

**Owner** means any person who has a legal or equitable interest in a Greyhound, including a lessee with an interest recorded with a *Controlling Body*.

**Race** means as defined in the *Racing Act 2002 (Qld)*.

**Racing Act** means the *Racing Act 2002 (Qld)* and the Regulations made pursuant thereto.

**Steward** means a steward employed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

**Trainer** means a person registered by a *Controlling Body* to train a Greyhound.



## 4. OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

### 4.1. Application

The Scheme applies where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) the on-course veterinarian determines that a Greyhound has sustained, or has likely sustained, an injury of the type specified in section 4.2 (an **Eligible Injury**) during the course of either:
  - i. a Greyhound Race or
  - ii. an Official Steward's Trial in Queensland, and
- (b) the on-course veterinarian refers the Greyhound to an off-course veterinarian for further diagnosis (including supportive care and/or emergency treatment); and
- (c) the Greyhound is presented to an off-course veterinarian in accordance with, where applicable, the instructions of the on-course veterinarian, and/or any direction given by a Steward, including within the instructed/directed timeframe; and
- (d) veterinary diagnostics and treatment provided to the Greyhound is undertaken by a qualified veterinary practitioner registered pursuant to relevant state or territory legislation.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Scheme does not apply where a Greyhound sustains an injury during training activities or trials (other than Official Steward's Trials).

### 4.2. Eligible injuries

- (a) The following injuries are an Eligible Injury under the Scheme:
  - i. fractures;
  - ii. dislocations above or including the carpus (wrist) or hock;
  - iii. tendon or ligament injuries requiring surgery;
  - iv. other injuries which, in the opinion of the on-course veterinarian, are life threatening and require immediate referral to an off-course veterinarian for emergency treatment.
- (b) Muscle injuries and lacerations are not an Eligible Injury under the Scheme, unless the on-course veterinarian determines that the muscle injury or laceration may reasonably be considered a life-threatening injury requiring immediate referral to an off-course veterinarian for emergency treatment.

### 4.3. Reimbursements and payments available under the Scheme

Where the Scheme applies pursuant to section 4.1, and the Applicant submits an application for reimbursement in accordance with 4.5, RQ may reimburse the Applicant in accordance with the following provisions:

#### 4.3.1 Diagnostic Imaging

- (a) Where an off-course veterinarian conducts diagnostic imaging, RQ may reimburse the Applicant for the cost of the diagnostic imaging (including the initial consultation fee and supportive care and/or emergency treatment) up to a maximum of \$1,000 (incl. GST).
- (b) Where a decision is made to euthanase a Greyhound, RQ will not reimburse costs associated with euthanasia and body disposal.

### 4.3.2 Surgery/Rehabilitation Treatment

- (a) Where the Eligible Injury is treated surgically, RQ may reimburse the Applicant for the cost of the treatment of the Greyhound (including the initial diagnostic imaging as described at 4.3.1 (a), the surgical procedure, and costs associated with the surgical procedure) up to a maximum of \$5,500 (incl. GST).
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, where surgery is performed to treat the Eligible Injury, **the maximum total reimbursement is \$5,500 (including GST)**, inclusive of reimbursement for initial diagnostic imaging as described at 4.3.1 (a). The \$1,000 (incl. GST) reimbursement for initial diagnostic imaging (including the initial consultation fee and supportive care and/or emergency treatment) **is not in addition to** the \$5,500 (incl. GST) reimbursement where the injury is treated surgically.
- (c) Where a surgical procedure has been performed in accordance with section 4.3.2 (a), or an Eligible Injury does not require surgical repair (subject to the provisions outlined in 4.3.2 (f)), RQ may, upon receipt of a completed Rehabilitation Progress Update Form, pay the Applicant \$70.00 (incl. GST) per week towards the rehabilitation costs of the Greyhound for the duration of the rehabilitation plan prescribed by the attending veterinarian, up to a maximum period of 12 weeks.
- (d) Payment of rehabilitation costs will be made in three (3) separate payments during the rehabilitation period at four (4), eight (8) and twelve (12) weeks.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, a ligament or tendon injury that does not require surgical repair, is not an Eligible Injury, and is not eligible for the rehabilitation payment.
- (f) Where diagnostic imaging confirms or reveals a complete fracture/s of a long bone, or bones of the carpus (wrist) or hock, and surgical fixation is not performed, rehabilitation payments will only be made if the radiographs have been reviewed by a registered veterinary specialist, and the registered veterinary specialist certifies that, in his or her opinion, conservative management of the fracture/s is:
  - i. the only way in which the fracture/s can be treated; or
  - ii. likely to result in an outcome which is as good as, or better, than that which would be anticipated if the fracture was surgically stabilised.

### 4.3.3 Multiple Injuries/Complex Cases

- (a) RQ may, at its sole discretion:
  - i. Approve the reimbursement of costs associated with surgical repair of an Eligible Injury, above the \$5,500 (incl. GST) maximum amount. This may be considered where multiple surgeries are required and/or the surgical case is complex.
  - ii. Approve the reimbursement of costs, up to a maximum total reimbursement of \$5,500 (incl. GST), where an Eligible Injury is of a complex nature and is referred to a registered veterinary specialist for assessment and requires ongoing specialist assessment (which may include advanced imaging) in the absence of surgical intervention.

## 4.4. Applicant obligations under the Scheme

- (a) Where the off-course veterinarian recommends surgical treatment for the Eligible Injury, ongoing appropriate care must be provided during the period until the surgery is performed, either by continued hospitalisation of the Greyhound at a veterinary practice, or as otherwise directed by the attending veterinarian.

- (b) Following the surgical procedure (or conservative treatment in accordance with 4.3.2 (c) and (f)), the Applicant is responsible for the ongoing care of the Greyhound, including ensuring that the Greyhound receives any rehabilitation therapy or post-operative care, including all follow-up veterinary assessments, that the treating veterinarian recommends. The Applicant must not return the Greyhound to training activities before receiving veterinary clearance to do so.
- (c) By applying for funding under the Scheme, the Applicant agrees to communicate proactively with RQ employees involved in the administration of the Scheme, and to keep RQ updated on the recovery and rehabilitation of the Greyhound. During the Greyhound's rehabilitation period, the Applicant must complete, and submit to RQ, a Rehabilitation Progress Update Form at four (4), eight (8) and twelve (12) weeks.
- (d) If the Greyhound does not return to racing or commence breeding activities, a notification of retirement must be submitted to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, in accordance with GAR 22.
- (e) If the trainer or owner of a Greyhound intends to enter the Greyhound into the QRIC's Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) following the completion of the rehabilitation period specified in section 4.4 (b), RQ recommends that the GAP Intake Submission Form is completed and submitted to the QRIC's GAP as soon as the decision has been made to retire the Greyhound. This will ensure that the Greyhound is placed on the GAP's waiting list and a place is booked for the next available pre-assessment intake following the completion of the Greyhound's rehabilitation.
- (f) The Applicant must not incur a debt that is reasonably considered to be unrecoverable (a 'bad debt') to any veterinarian or veterinary practice in the course of the Greyhound receiving treatment for the Eligible Injury. The incurring of a bad debt may be referred to the Stewards, and may constitute a breach of GAR 165 (a).

#### 4.5. Application process

- (a) To apply for reimbursement under the Scheme, the Applicant must:
- i. complete the Race Meeting Injury Scheme Application Form; and
  - ii. provide the following supporting documentation:
    - A. all clinical notes from the attending off-course veterinarian/s; and
    - B. copies of any diagnostic imaging for which reimbursement is sought; and
    - C. itemised invoices and receipts for payment for veterinary treatment provided.
- (b) Applications for funding under the Scheme must be submitted to RQ by email or post at:

**Email address:** [injuryscheme@racingqueensland.com.au](mailto:injuryscheme@racingqueensland.com.au)

**Postal address:** Attention: Greyhound Department  
Racing Queensland  
PO Box 63  
Sandgate QLD 4017

## 4.6. Consideration of Application

- (a) Reimbursement will be paid to the Applicant where RQ is satisfied that:
- i. the injury, veterinary treatment and subsequent rehabilitation of the Greyhound accords with all relevant requirements as outlined in this document; and
  - ii. the Applicant has complied with the application process set out in section 4.5.
- (b) In the event that the Applicant is unable to provide receipt/s of payment for the veterinary treatment received, RQ may, at its sole discretion, make payment, up to the relevant maximum amount, directly to the treating veterinarian(s) upon provision of the necessary invoice(s).
- (c) Where RQ is not satisfied that relevant requirements have been met, RQ will notify the Applicant that he/she must provide further documentation, or is not eligible to receive reimbursement under the Scheme.
- (d) All decisions of RQ in relation to applications for reimbursement under this Scheme are final.

## 5. REVIEW, VARIATION OR DISCONTINUATION OF THE SCHEME

RQ may review, vary or discontinue the Scheme from time to time. In the event that the Scheme is varied or discontinued, RQ will notify participants of such changes by way of SMS communication to licensed participants and a notice on the Racing Queensland website (<http://www.racingqueensland.com.au>).

## 6. VERSION HISTORY

Current Version:	3.0	Date Made:	14/04/2023	Effective Date:	20/04/2023
Scheme Owner:	EGM Operations			EGM Operations Approved:	19/04/2023
Enquiries to:	EGM Operations			Review due by:	20/04/2024

Version	Effective	Enquiries to	Scheme Owner	Changes Made
1.0	11/09/2018	Greyhound Manager - Operations	Greyhound Manager - Operations	New scheme
2.0	23/06/2020	Greyhound Manager - Operations	Greyhound Manager - Operations	Revised scheme, including eligible injury types and increased funding for treatment and rehabilitation.
3.0	20/04/2023	EGM Operations	EGM Operations	Revised scheme, including variations to coverage and eligibility, and removal of information not relevant to the operation of the Scheme .