



Australian Government

RGRPSG409 Assess greyhound structural and functional suitability for racing

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package Version 3.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct a physical examination of greyhounds to assess their structural and functional suitability for racing.

The unit applies to individuals who work with greyhound owners, trainers and veterinarians to assist with optimising the health of racing greyhounds.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory animal welfare and health and safety regulations, legislation, state-based licensing arrangements and standards that apply to the workplace.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

The prerequisite units of competency for this unit are:

- RGRPSG201 Handle greyhounds
- RGRPSG408 Relate musculoskeletal structure to greyhound movement.

Unit Sector

Performance Services Greyhounds (PSG)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Prepare for greyhound examination	1.1 Assess the potential risks to health and safety when working with greyhounds

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.2 Obtain background information from owner and/or trainer on greyhound racing performance to assist with identifying common injuries 1.3 Prepare a safe and controlled environment to conduct the examination 1.4 Handle and control the greyhound to minimise the risk to self, others and the greyhound 1.5 Recognise greyhound behaviour that indicates that an activity should be discontinued
2. Conduct physical examination for musculoskeletal dysfunction or injury	2.1 Assess gait, and check mobility of major joints and limbs using flexing and extension techniques 2.2 Examine the spinal column, applying gentle palpation techniques 2.3 Examine lower limbs to detect abnormalities 2.4 Assess common sites for torn muscles in racing greyhounds to detect injuries 2.5 Recognise signs indicating whether injury or dysfunction is acute or chronic 2.6 Monitor the greyhound for signs of pain, distress or alarm, and respond appropriately
3. Provide options for detected musculoskeletal dysfunction or injury	3.1 Identify abnormalities and discuss examination findings with owner and/or trainer 3.2 Refer greyhounds with major dysfunction and injuries to registered veterinarian for clinical examination 3.3 Provide options for non-invasive treatment for minor dysfunction and injuries, with greyhound owner and/or trainer and in consultation with veterinarians 3.4 Advise on strategies to avoid injury, and on recovery or stand down times for relevant injuries, in consultation with veterinarians, owners and trainers
4. Maintain records	4.1 Record examination notes and treatment plan for individual greyhound 4.2 Provide records to owner and/or trainer, and to the referring veterinarian as requested 4.3 File and store records, ensuring they can be retrieved when

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	required

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Writing	Record information clearly and accurately in treatment plans for internal and external purposes
Navigate the world of work	Take responsibility for following regulatory and racing industry requirements relating to health assistant role and scope of practice
Get the work done	- Plan, sequence and prioritise activities to achieve work outcome - Use common workplace technology to record and convey information

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
RGRPSG409 Assess greyhound structural and functional suitability for racing	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c4b8489-f7e1-463b-81c8-6ecce6c192a0>

Assessment Requirements for RGRPSG409 Assess greyhound structural and functional suitability for racing

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- carried out a physical examination of at least 10 greyhounds under supervision of veterinarian
- maintained a diary of assessment and identification for each greyhound examined
- completed a treatment plan for five greyhounds that have minor dysfunctions or injuries, in consultation with a registered veterinarian
- completed notes to be referred to a registered veterinarian for one greyhound that has a major dysfunction or injury.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- health and safety risks working with greyhounds, including:
 - bites and scratches
 - infections and zoonoses
- signs of greyhound behaviour indicating pain or distress, including:
 - vocalisation, yelping
 - pulling away, stiffness, restricted movement
- racing performance that can indicate common injuries, including:
 - deviating in the run, including running wide at the corners
 - incorrect galloping action
 - decreased speed and slowing in first or last sections
- common injuries in racing greyhounds, including:
 - tears and strains of the major muscles of fore and hind limbs
 - sprains and dislocations of lower limb and toe joints

- swelling, bruising, abrasions and lacerations
- physical examination techniques, including:
 - palpation
 - flexing and extension
- major dysfunction or injury, including:
 - tears
 - dislocations
 - fractures
 - canine exertional rhabdomyolysis, known as ‘acidosis’ (severe)
- minor dysfunction or injury, including:
 - muscle strain
 - bruising
 - tendon and ligament sprain
 - abraded pads, nail tears
 - acidosis (low grade)
- non-invasive treatments, including:
 - examinations for musculoskeletal function and injury
 - manual/massage therapy
 - range and availability of physiotherapy machines for treatments, including laser therapy, therapeutic ultrasound, magnetic field therapy
 - ice therapy
 - heat pack therapy
 - liniment application
 - underwater treadmill, hydrotherapy
- invasive treatments that are illegal and/or outside the scope of practice for a greyhound health assistant, including:
 - pin firing
 - blistering
 - sclerosing
 - injections, placing needles in greyhounds, acupuncture
 - chiropractic adjustments
 - any procedure that causes a greyhound to experience pain
 - diagnosis in relation to veterinary surgeon/science regulations
- recovery and stand down times for muscle, tendon and bone injuries
- strategies to avoid injury, including:
 - hydration
 - taping
- formats for keeping records and documenting treatment plans.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various greyhounds to be examined
- specifications:
 - recording forms.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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