

Chapter WGC 15

HUMANE TREATMENT OF RACING ANIMALS

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Note: Chapter RACE 15 was renumbered chapter WGC 15 and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1. and 6., Stats., Register, March, 1995, No. 471.

WGC 15.01 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that animals participating in races in this state shall be treated humanely both on and off racetracks throughout the life of the animals.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90.

WGC 15.02 Humane issues. (1) Owners and trainers of greyhounds shall humanely treat, both on and off the race track, all greyhounds in their possession or under their control:

(a) This condition shall terminate only when the party ceases to be an owner or trainer of greyhounds;

(b) A proven violation of this rule shall ban the responsible party from holding any racing related license for a minimum 5 year period.

(c) A person is guilty of inhumane treatment for any, but not limited to, of the following acts: if the person overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, drink or shelter, cruelly beats, mutilates any animal, or causes or procures any animal to be so overdriven, overloaded, driven when overloaded, overworked, tortured, tormented, deprived of necessary sustenance, drink, shelter, or to be cruelly beaten or mutilated; and whoever having charge or custody of any animal, either as owner or otherwise, subjects any animal to needless suffering, or inflicts unnecessary cruelty upon the animal, or in any manner abuses any animal, or fails to provide the animal with proper food, drink or shelter or protection from the weather, or who drives or otherwise uses an animal unfit for racing, training or other labor.

(2) A sworn affidavit for each greyhound to be entered shall be filed by the trainer or owner with the steward stating the dog has not been trained on a live lure:

(a) The affidavit shall disclose the locations of training, dates of training and names, addresses and telephone numbers of all trainers. This affidavit is to be filed by the trainer or owner prior to racing;

(b) Providing false information shall subject the licensee to a forfeiture, suspension, revocation of license or any combination;

(c) A violation of this rule shall result in a suspension of the guilty party for life;

(d) For purposes of this requirement it is presumed a greyhound cannot be trained at an age of less than 10 months.

(3) The commission shall investigate on all complaints regarding humane treatment of greyhounds.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90.

WGC 15.03 Euthanasia. (1) All persons subject to the jurisdiction of the commission shall only use a lethal injection of barbiturates to euthanize a greyhound:

(a) Only a licensed veterinarian shall administer such barbiturates.

(b) Such barbiturates shall be administered in a manner sufficient to ensure that the animal feels no pain or discomfort.

(2) Violation of this rule shall subject the violator to the penalties as provided in s. 562.13 (4), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90.

WGC 15.04 Live lure prohibition. (1) No animal that participates in races upon which pari-mutuel wagering is conducted in this state, and no animals which are whelped or trained in this state for racing, shall be trained on a live lure or bait.

(2) The following shall govern live lure requirements:

(a) Before January 1, 1992, no person shall enter or permit a dog to be entered in a race if that person knows that the dog was trained in a state that does not prohibit the use of live lures or bait in a race or training for entry in a race.

(b) On and after January 1, 1992, no person shall enter or permit a dog to be entered in a race if that person knows that the dog was trained in a state that does not specifically prohibit the use of live lures or bait in a race or training for entry in a race.

(3) Any occupation licensee who violates this section shall have his or her occupation license revoked for life.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90; am. (1) and (3), Register, July, 1990, No. 415, eff. 8-1-90; correction in (3) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 5, Stats., Register, July, 1990, No. 415.

WGC 15.05 General humane rules. (1) Greyhounds shall not be muzzled in their crates while housed in kennels on the grounds of a licensed association, unless permission is obtained by the commission's veterinarian, which shall be granted only for valid veterinary medical concerns.

(2) Prior to the beginning of each race meet the state stewards shall approve the racing condition of the track

surface. Before each performance a steward, an association representative and commission veterinarian shall evaluate the condition of the track. If the track surface is deemed unsafe in their opinion, the association shall have until post time of the first race to correct the problem or racing shall be canceled by the stewards. In the event of inclement weather causing an unsafe racing surface, the stewards, upon consultation with the general manager and commission veterinarian may suspend the remainder of the racing program.

(3) No greyhounds shall be removed from the grounds of the racetrack unless prior approval from a commission steward or designee has been obtained, unless in case of emergency. In cases of emergency, within 24 hours the trainer shall submit to the stewards an explanation of the emergency and any substantiating documents required by the stewards:

(a) Approval will include inspection and identification of the greyhound.

(b) Destination of the greyhound shall be submitted to the commission stewards or commission veterinarian on a form supplied by the commission.

(c) Upon return to the grounds, the steward, after examination by the commission veterinarian shall verify that the animal has recovered, if it left for treatment.

(4) All greyhounds transported to any racetrack within the state shall be hauled in crates designed and used for the sole purpose of transporting greyhounds. These crates shall be 2 feet wide, 3 feet long and 34 inches high.

(5) All greyhounds shall have been vaccinated for rabies as provided in s. 95.21 (2), Stats.

(6) Only one greyhound shall be housed per crate at any time.

(7) The trainer of each kennel shall be responsible for the proper maintenance, upkeep and sanitary condition of the kennel, crates and turn-out pens.

(8) All greyhounds kenneled at a racetrack licensed under s. 562.05 (1) (a) and (b), Stats., shall be vaccinated annually for rabies. If a greyhound has not been vaccinated within one year prior to kenneled at the racetrack, vaccination shall occur within one week of arrival. Copies of current rabies certifications evidencing vaccination within one year which are signed by a licensed veterinarian shall be recorded with the commission steward. When a greyhound's vaccination date is more than one year from the current date, a new vaccination shall occur, and certificate filed, within one week.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1990, No. 411, eff. 4-1-90; am. (5), cr. (7) and (8), Register, July, 1990, No. 415, eff. 8-1-90.