



Date: 6 November 2015

Consultation on the initial findings of the Review of the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010

Dear Consultee

I am writing to invite views on the initial findings of the review of the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010.

The Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations came into force on 6 April 2010 and have been in force now for five years. The Government, in line with its commitment to review all new regulations after they have been in force for a period of time, is committed to undertaking a review of their effectiveness.

The aims of the Regulations, when introduced, were to ensure that all greyhound tracks in England are covered by the same minimum welfare standards and there will be improved traceability of greyhounds. Defra wishes to review the Regulations to establish whether, and to what extent, the Regulations have achieved their original objectives. Also, whether the objectives and scope of the Regulations are still valid, and whether regulation is still the best option for achieving those objectives. This review is not reviewing whether greyhound racing should be banned.

To help focus this consultation, Defra has undertaken and commissioned research to gather evidence on the effectiveness of the Regulations and their impact on greyhound welfare. Evidence was collected, in the form of the experiences of relevant stakeholders from across the industry, from track operators and track vets, to re-homing organisations and welfare groups. The report of the research – 'Exploring Effectiveness of Racing Greyhounds Legislation (2010)' is the main reference document for this consultation and represents the initial findings of the review of the Regulations.

This consultation seeks views on the initial findings of the review as set out in the report. Based on these findings and preliminary discussions with the GBGB, the consultation also sets out possible practicable options for further action to address the issues raised. This consultation stage is an opportunity for anyone to comment on the findings, options and submit any further evidence.

The following documents may be found on the Gov.UK Defra's [website](#):

- 'Exploring Effectiveness of Racing Greyhounds Legislation (2010)'
- Consultation on the initial findings of the Review of the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010 – Consultation document.

We welcome your views and comments on the initial findings. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation please contact: AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool) at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare/consultation-on-the-racing-greyhounds-review>

Our preferred method of receiving responses is online because it is the fastest and most cost-effective way for us to collate and analyse responses. However, if you wish to respond to the consultation by email or in writing, please send responses to:

By email – AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Or

Animal Welfare Team
Area 4B
Nobel House
17 Smith Square,
London
SW1P 3JR

The closing date for the Consultation is **31 December 2015**

This will be an 8 week consultation period. It builds on the extensive engagement already undertaken in collecting the evidence for the initial findings of the review. This included interviewing, by telephone, some 44 people with experience of the operation of the Regulations and undertaking an on-line survey, to which some 103 people responded, of other stakeholders likely to have experience of the Regulations.

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Summary of responses and confidentiality

When this consultation ends, we will summarise all responses and place this summary online available through our website at www.gov.uk. This summary will include a list of

names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details. If you require a hard copy of the summary, or have any other enquiries, please contact us by email at: AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk

We will also analyse all the responses, together with the initial findings, to produce a final Post Implementation Review document. This document will set out how effective we believe the Regulations have been, whether they are still required, and, if so, if there is need for any amendments plus any other proposals for further action.

Please note that, unless you specifically request for it to be treated confidentially, your response may be made publically available.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Room 629, 9 Millbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR; or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation. We welcome your views and comments. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Animal Welfare Team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs