

From: [Soring, Keith \[IRGC\]](#)
To: [Ohorilko, Brian \[IRGC\]](#)
Subject: FW: [GreyVets] 2 questions
Date: Monday, December 29, 2014 9:32:54 AM

From: GreyVets@yahoogroups.com [mailto:GreyVets@yahoogroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Dr Lori L Bohenko
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2011 8:51 PM
To: GreyVets@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [GreyVets] 2 questions

Hi Keith,

Two very good, pertinent questions! Here are my answers from Wheeling:

1. It is my understanding that the Track Association at Wheeling Island has established an injury fund beginning in 2011. I have not been made aware of the details, but I will try to find out more. I do know that they are withholding a flat rate from each kennel's weekly purse check. I believe that the track is also contributing to the fund, but I do not know how much. I do not know how the monies are being dispersed to the injured dogs. The kennel personnel that I have spoken to do not know any details either! Looks like I have some investigating to do. I will post my findings here.

I had initially made a suggestion to track management to set up a program with Ohio State Vet School, as we are only 2 hours away. I have not been involved with any negotiations with the College (which I offered to do), so I do not think this has gone far. Too bad, as it would be a Win-Win situation for the GHs, students and surgery residents. Definitely worth pursuing.

2. This second question is one that I have had to deal with frequently and I agree that it would be helpful to have a group consensus on this one to help back up our decisions. It is always a battle with management when we (the State) discuss cancelling a race card due to cold temps. Here are a few criteria that we have used in the past when faced with extreme temps (low teens, single digits and below 0 WindChills)

- a. Post Parade inside on camera, Dogs wait inside then taken directly to box, loaded immediatley and lure started. This takes coordination with paddock judge, patrol judge, lure operator and judges!
- b. GH's removed from track ASAP post race, kennel help required to blanket immediately (I know this sounds like a no-brainer, but some helpers don't like putting blankets on right away!)
- c. Agreement with management that if multiple GHs cramp sdring races that racing will be cancelled.

Comments:

- a. I am presently doing battle with management regarding the winter blankets worn by the GHs to the post. We have been using old, tattered, torn blankets for several years. I put my foot down this year and the track FINALLY bought new ones. Well, be careful what you wish for. The new ones are made out of cheap, thin materials and in my opinion are not sufficient to keep the dogs warm in single digit temps. Of course management looked at me like I was crazy when I asked for them to purchase fleece liners to layer under the new blankets on extremely cold days. Rather than fight and wait until the spring thaw, the kennels have all agreed to pitch in \$25 apiece

to pay for the fleece liners, which currently under construction!

b. There is definitely an increase of crampers during cold weather. I do not know what the magic cut-off temp number is.

I do not make a practice of drawing a line in the sand by publicly stating that races will be cancelled at a certain temp.

I feel that there is also a factor of weather conditions to take into account as well (ie heavy snow, high winds, blizzard condntions).

That said, in my head, I have always used zero degrees/or zero wind chill as my cut-off point for cancellation.

c. The animal right activists like to use winter racing as a example to the general public as one of the 'Inhumane: aspects of Gh Racing.

I have had to deal with them several winters over this....anyone else?

I look forward to hearing how others are handling this!!

Lori Bohenko
Wheeling Island Racetrack

----- Original Message -----

From: [Spring_Keith \[IRGC\]](mailto:Spring_Keith@IRGC)

To: GreyVets@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Friday, January 14, 2011 11:30 AM

Subject: [GreyVets] 2 questions

Happy New Year everyone – have a couple quick topics to survey members with if you have time:

1) Any updates from jurisdictions implementing a surgery or injury fund in conjunction with a local university or clinic? Is Wheeling's program off the ground? Any updates or info on how this is being funded would be appreciated. Still pushing for it here in Iowa but funding is still the big question.

2) I've seen several dogs cramping up severely in this extreme weather during or after the races – should we as a group of veterinary professionals recommend some type of guideline for calling off races due to either actual temperature below a certain point or wind chill? Any opinions/thoughts on this subject since most of the country is dealing with this extreme cold right now??

Thanks!

Keith Spring/Iowa

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