

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
RACING COMMISSION**

POLICY IMPLEMENTING GREYHOUND ADOPTION PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to implement the amendment to West Virginia Code § 19-23-10(d), effective June 2010, which authorizes the Racing Commission to expend monies for greyhound adoption expenses. The amended statute, in relevant part, states as follows:

Ten percent of the deposits into the greyhound breeding development fund beginning July 1, 1993 and continuing each year thereafter, shall be withheld by the Racing Commission and placed in a special revenue account hereby created in the State Treasury called the “administration, promotion, education, capital improvement and greyhound adoption programs to include spaying and neutering account.” The Racing Commission is authorized to expend monies deposited in the administration, promotion, education, capital improvement and greyhound adoption programs to include spaying and neutering account at such times and in such amounts as the commission determines to be necessary for the purpose of administering and promoting the greyhound development program.

II. DEFINITIONS

“Greyhound adoption expenses” means veterinary costs associated with the spaying or neutering of a greyhound.

“West Virginia Greyhound Adoption Program Reimbursement Voucher” or “Voucher” means the document developed and approved by the Commission to be completed in order for the Commission to reimburse a licensed veterinarian for greyhound adoption expenses.

III. POLICY

A. Upon receipt of required documentation and within the limitations set forth in this policy, the Commission will reimburse licensed veterinarians for greyhound adoption expenses in an

effort to promote and advance the adoption of eligible greyhounds. The Commission finds that reimbursement of greyhound adoption expenses is consistent with the best interest of the greyhound racing industry and the State of West Virginia as a whole.

B. The Commission shall develop and maintain at its Office a “West Virginia Greyhound Adoption Program Reimbursement Voucher.” Any owner/breeder who desires to have his or her greyhound spayed or neutered in preparation for putting the greyhound up for adoption shall make request to the Commission office for a Voucher. The owner/breeder requesting the Voucher shall provide, in writing, all information related to the identity and ownership of the greyhound and any additional information requested by Commission staff. There shall be one Voucher completed for each greyhound that is the subject of a reimbursement request.

C. Upon receipt of a request for a Voucher, Commission staff shall ensure that the subject greyhound is eligible for reimbursement of adoption expenses. Only those greyhounds eligible for participation in the West Virginia Greyhound Breeding Development Fund are eligible for reimbursement under this Policy. If the greyhound is determined to be ineligible, Commission staff shall promptly notify the owner/breeder in writing. There is no right of appeal for a determination of ineligibility under this Policy.

D. If Commission staff determines that the greyhound is eligible for reimbursement, staff shall: (1) mark the Voucher as “Approved Pending Documentation from Veterinarian,” (2) sign and date the Voucher and (3) return it to the owner/breeder. The Voucher shall also indicate that the subject greyhound is not eligible for entry into any race in the State of West Virginia.

E. The owner/breeder shall present the greyhound, with approved Voucher, to any licensed veterinarian for spaying or neutering.

F. Upon completion of the spaying or neutering, the veterinarian shall indicate on the Voucher the date of service and total reimbursement requested. The veterinarian shall submit the Voucher to the Commission office for review. The veterinarian shall also submit his/her veterinary records from the date of service showing the greyhound adoption expenses incurred. The Voucher and accompanying records must be received by the Commission staff within ninety (90) days of the date of service.

G. The Commission staff shall review the Voucher and accompanying veterinary records, and if approved, shall promptly submit the request to the State of West Virginia Auditor’s Office for reimbursement to the veterinarian. If the documentation received from the veterinarian is incomplete, Commission staff shall contact the veterinarian in order to rectify the matter if possible.

IV. LIMITATIONS

A. Reimbursement for greyhound adoption expenses under this Policy will be limited to a maximum of one-hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per greyhound.

B. Unless approved otherwise by the Commission, the Commission shall expend no more than one-hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000.00) per fiscal year for reimbursement for greyhound adoption expenses from the “administration, promotion, education, capitol improvement and greyhound adoption programs to include spaying and neutering account.”

C. The Commission will approve reimbursement requests under this Policy on a first-come first-served basis, based on the Commission’s receipt of the completed Voucher and all required documentation from the veterinarian seeking reimbursement.

D. This Policy in no way affects an owner/breeder’s obligation to pay for veterinary services not covered by this Policy. In addition, this Policy is not to be construed as a contract for payment of veterinary services.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE:

APPROVED AND ISSUED BY:

Joe E. Smith, Chairman
West Virginia Racing Commission