

Artificial Insemination of Greyhound Regulations (S.I. 561/2005)

(Issued 31/10/14)

The Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) wishes to announce that it has finalised a statutory instrument with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine in relation to the Artificial Insemination of Greyhound Regulations 2005 (S.I. 561/2005).

Members of the Irish Greyhound Industry will be aware of the operational difficulties that transpired in the implementation of certain provisions under the AI regulations 2005 in particular;

-Article 11 of these regulations concerning the “Eligibility for registration of a litter conceived in Ireland by artificial insemination; a litter conceived in Ireland by means of artificial insemination will be eligible for registration in the Irish Greyhound Stud Book only if that insemination has taken place within two years of the date of the death of a stud sire from which the semen was drawn, if the certificate from the Relevant Authority specifies that the stud sire has died”¹.

-Article 14 of the AI Regulations which requires that the unused frozen sperm of a stud sire to be destroyed two years after the death of the stud sire.

In March 2014, IGB invited Industry stakeholders to submit proposals both at meetings and in writing on the suitability of the Articles in the AI Regulations 2005 to meet with current Industry requirements.

In addition to consideration of the varying submission and opinions from all stakeholders affected by this regulation, the IGB conducted a cross jurisdictional review of legislation in other Countries that regulate the practice of artificial insemination in animals thereby identifying the commonality and best practice in Artificial Insemination practices across similar industries.

Legislative Resolution as follows:

Articles 11 (h) and 14 are amended so as to remove the two year limitation period for future inseminations. This arrangement remains in place under statute for the requisite period commencing on the date the existing Statutory Articles are removed. In addition the IGB will be undertaking a scientific project led by experts in animal reproductive and genetics studies to assess the necessary modern molecular and quantitative genetic studies is completed.

IGB's Director of Racing Governance & Compliance, Hilary Forde, said: " We believe that such a study will enable the IGB to implement appropriate regulatory instruments, based on scientific foundations, thus ensuring that we fulfil-our duty of care to the welfare and sustainability of the greyhound breed. In particular, this study will:

- Avoid the introduction and advance of characteristics which are deleterious to the well-being of the greyhound breed;
- Manage the genetic resources and diversity between and within populations of the greyhound and;
- Improve the precision with which breeding outcomes can be predicted"

The Artificial Insemination of Greyhounds (Amendment) Regulations 2014 Statutory Instrument Number 494/20014 and will be in effect from 1 November 2014.

Ends

For further details please contact pr@igb.ie