

Industry Notice

Disease Outbreak in Greyhounds

Participants are advised there is an outbreak of Gastro-intestinal disease currently in South-East Queensland. It is not apparent yet whether this is linked to the Western Australian outbreak which occurred earlier this year. Every effort is being made to control the spread and limit the impact.

Tasmania enjoys a geographic isolation helping disease prevention. The Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) asks those participants moving dogs, especially importing, to be particularly diligent in monitoring the health of those involved and take preventative measures when indicated.

Symptoms:

- i) VOMITTING & DIARRHOEA
- ii) Loss of appetite, with associated weight loss
- iii) Lethargy
- iv) High Temperature (inconsistent)

Dogs showing any of these signs should be presented to the owner or trainers usual Veterinary Surgeon.

Cause: Several infectious agents have been detected in affected dogs. There could be multiple causes. It appears it is contagious. One virus heavily implicated is the Canine Corona Virus. It should be noted this is not related to the current "novel coronavirus" outbreak causing respiratory illness in people.

Facts:

- **Incubation 1-4 days**
- **Duration of Illness 2-10 days**
- **Shedding 6-9 days after clinical signs have ceased**
- **Morbidity (Number Affected) high, Mortality (Number dying) low.**

ORI is calling on all owners and trainers to check the health of their greyhounds before bringing them into Tasmania and to race or trial days, if they are ill they must scratch them from competition. Dogs for import should not be brought into the state if not well and those arriving should be isolated and monitored for 10 days following their arrival for signs of illness.

Prevention and Control:

Hygiene - High standards of cleanliness are critical. Kennels must be cleaned out daily as a minimum. Utensils such as feed and water bowls must be cleaned and dry when not in use. Objects such as bedding should not be shared.

Disinfection - Care should be taken to remove any solid debris and use a recognised disinfectant, check the label to ensure efficiency.

Personal Protective Equipment - Gloves, coats, overalls, boots etc. should be worn and removed prior to moving on to another dog. Hands and shoes are particularly important and must be washed thoroughly and disinfected.

Utensils, bedding, toys, gear, brushes etc. should not be transferred between dogs or kennels.

Any dog showing symptoms or transferring between kennels should be isolated.

ORI would like to stress the importance of preventing this disease from entering the state. Disruption to racing can thus be avoided and the welfare of the dogs guaranteed.

Any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Racing Integrity.