

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Canine Coronavirus Update

Owners and Trainers are notified the virus outbreak of a contagious gastroenteritis (vomiting/diarrhoea) caused by canine coronavirus. The outbreak of canine coronavirus started in Western Australia in December, spreading to Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria.

Canine coronavirus is a common cause of diarrhoea and vomiting and is highly contagious between dogs. Important to note, canine coronavirus is not related in any way to the current coronavirus (COVID -19) affecting humans.

Unlike with parvovirus, the mortality rate is low with canine coronavirus. Puppies and young dogs are the most susceptible to this disease.

All states other than Tasmania have been affected with some of their race and trial meetings cancelled.

The disease is relatively easy to control by restricting dog movements, isolating imports and good hygiene. There is no specific treatment for canine coronavirus, however supportive care is very important and greyhound racing participants should seek immediate veterinary advice for affected dogs.

As an island, Tasmania is in a very fortunate position to continue to race and enjoy our sport. Owners and trainers have a vested interest in containing this outbreak. As such, industry participants are reminded of their obligations when moving dogs.

The Office of Racing Integrity implores participants to avoid the importation of dogs from the mainland. If absolutely necessary, these dogs must be isolated from the general population for a period of 14 days. There must also be great emphasis on hygiene, avoiding transfer from possibly exposed dogs to your usual kennels.

If you suspect the infection is in your dogs, please notify ORI. The health of all greyhounds must be checked before bringing them to race or trial and if they are ill they must be scratched from racing. Keep your greyhound isolated until confirmation whether canine coronavirus is the cause.

As a matter of urgency, it is imperative that we work together to stop this virus entering into Tasmania and prevent you from racing.

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For further information

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