



# FACT SHEET

## Canine Coronavirus



Canine Coronavirus is contagious and can spread rapidly around greyhound kennels. It causes gastroenteritis, which is inflammation in the stomach and intestine and characterised by symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhoea.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CANINE CORONAVIRUS?

The following clinical signs and disease patterns have been identified in infected greyhounds:

- Loss of appetite.
- Diarrhoea.
- Vomiting.
- Lack of energy and reduced activity.
- High temperature, however most cases do not present with an elevated temperature.

Illness lasts between 2-14 day, but often resolves within 3 days.

Note that young dogs are most at risk of Canine Coronavirus infection and developing serious illness.

Canine Coronaviruses are commonly found in dogs and are in no way related to the human coronaviruses which cause respiratory illness.

### HOW DOES THIS INFECTION SPREAD?

These infections are highly contagious and can spread rapidly amongst greyhounds. The virus is transmitted from direct contact with faeces or contaminated material.

Dogs can still shed the virus for 6-9 days after their symptoms have resolved. Some dogs that do not appear ill can shed the virus and spread it to healthy dogs.

### CANINE CORONAVIRUS? REPORT IT

Canine Coronavirus is a reportable disease, so if your greyhound/s test positive, you must inform GWIC.

 Phone: 13 49 42 (13 GWIC)

 Email: [vets@gwic.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vets@gwic.nsw.gov.au)

### IS THERE A VACCINATION AVAILABLE?

A vaccine is available and the Commission encourages participants to vaccinate their greyhounds with Lepto/Corona vaccine, especially those located in close proximity to areas currently affected. Consult your vet for further information about this vaccination.

### MY GREYHOUND IS SHOWING THESE SYMPTOMS, WHAT DO I DO?

If infection is suspected, immediately isolate affected greyhounds from other dogs and scratch greyhounds that are engaged to race or trial.

Owners and trainers should take greyhounds that are ill to their vets for further diagnostics. The Commission will cover costs associated with laboratory testing to confirm infection.

Do not move greyhounds that are sick, other than to transport to a clinic for treatment and observe strict biosecurity practices to prevent transmission.



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### WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT TRANSMISSION TO OTHER GREYHOUNDS?

To manage the risk of transmission of infectious diseases, it is important to maintain good biosecurity and hygiene practices. Good biosecurity practices include:

- Isolate affected greyhounds immediately.
- Avoid moving affected greyhounds from the property unless necessary.
- Quarantine greyhounds that may have been in contact with affected greyhounds for 10 days.
- Limit and quarantine new arrivals for 10 days.
- Do not race or trial greyhounds that are affected.
- Monitor the health of all greyhounds in your care and seek veterinarian advice for any concerns you have.

Participants should maintain strict hygiene practices such as:

- Frequent cleaning of kennels, transport, equipment and feed/water bowls with a bleach-based product or specialist veterinary disinfectant.
- Maintain high levels of hygiene in kennels and remove faeces from the environment as often as possible.
- Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, overalls and boots to reduce the risk of you spreading the virus where possible.
- Do not share bedding and utensils between greyhounds.

Good biosecurity and hygiene practices will mean adapting your management according to the traffic light system.



### RED CATEGORY INFECTED GREYHOUNDS

Greyhound/s that are confirmed by laboratory testing to have infection. Isolate from all other greyhounds.



### AMBER CATEGORY CHANCE OF INFECTION

Greyhound/s that have been in contact with an infected greyhound and show no signs of illness. Quarantine by keeping the greyhound separate from healthy and infected greyhounds.



### GREEN CATEGORY UNAFFECTED GREYHOUNDS

Greyhounds that have not had contact with RED or AMBER greyhounds and show no signs of illness. Keep separate to isolated or quarantined greyhounds.



In using the traffic light system, colour code groups and keep separate food and water bowls, leads, muzzles, bedding etc. No equipment should be transferred between these groups.

When feeding, exercising or toileting greyhounds the **green** categorised greyhounds should be handled first, followed by **amber**, then **red**.

Participants should not handle **green** categorised greyhounds after **amber** or **red** categorised greyhounds without disinfecting.