

FACT SHEET

Canine Coronavirus

What is Canine Coronavirus?

Gastroenteritis, caused by Canine Coronavirus, is inflammation in the stomach and intestine, which are characterised by symptoms including vomiting and diarrhoea. These infections are contagious and can spread rapidly around greyhound kennels. Young dogs are most at risk of infection and developing serious illness.

Canine Coronaviruses are commonly found in dogs and is in no way related to the current 'coronavirus' outbreak causing respiratory illness in people.

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.

Is there a vaccination available?

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



What are 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 days but often resolves within 3 days.

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. The Commission's vets can assist with advice and strategies to limit spread.

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What can I do to prevent transmission of this infection 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: Infected greyhound/s

Confirmed by laboratory testing to have infection.

Actions

- Isolate from all other greyhounds.
- colour code and keep separate food and water bowls, leads, muzzles, bedding etc. No equipment should be transferred between groups.

AMBER: Chance of infection greyhound/s

Has been contact with an infected greyhound and show no signs of illness.

Actions:

- Quarantine by keeping the greyhound separate from healthy and infected greyhounds.
- colour code and keep separate food and water bowls, leads, muzzles, bedding etc. No equipment should be transferred between groups.

GREEN: Unaffected greyhound/s

Greyhounds that have not had contact with RED or AMBER greyhounds and show no signs of illness

- Action: Keep separate to isolated or quarantined greyhounds
- colour code and keep separate food and water bowls, leads, muzzles, bedding etc. No equipment should be transferred between groups.

It is very important that when feeding, exercising or toileting greyhounds that you follow the below order:

- Green categorised greyhound/s first
- Amber categorised greyhound/s second
- Red categorised greyhounds/s last

Participants should not handle green categorised greyhound/s after amber or red categorised greyhound/s without disinfecting first.