



Kennel Cough Fact Sheet

What is Kennel Cough?

Kennel Cough or Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease Complex (CIRDC) is a highly contagious disease in dogs, caused by a number of upper respiratory viruses (including canine parainfluenza virus) and bacteria (usually *Bordetella bronchiseptica*).

How do dogs get Kennel Cough?

Kennel Cough is spread as droplets in the air from a coughing dog to a healthy dog that come into close contact. Once a greyhound has inhaled the infection, it usually takes between five and seven days for symptoms to appear. It is important to note that even after coughing has ceased and your greyhound appears recovered, it may remain infectious and potentially spread infection for up to three months.

What are the main symptoms of Kennel Cough?

- runny nose
- sneezing
- dry, hacking cough

Can Kennel Cough be prevented?

Annual vaccination against *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and canine parainfluenza virus (part of the C5 vaccination) can aid in the prevention of Kennel Cough outbreaks and help to reduce the incidence and/or severity of the disease in racing kennels. Vaccination for Kennel Cough forms part of the required schedule of vaccination for racing and breeding greyhounds to comply with the Rules of Racing.

Are there any other ways to protect my dog from Kennel Cough?

Maintaining good biosecurity is key to preventing Kennel Cough from entering your kennels. New greyhounds on the property should be quarantined on arrival for 7-14 days to ensure they are not showing any signs of Kennel Cough or incubating the disease at time of arrival.

My greyhound has Kennel Cough, what do I do?

Any sick greyhound should be immediately isolated from all other dogs on your property. Greyhounds in close contact with affected greyhounds should also be quarantined and monitored closely for symptoms.

The kennels used to house the affected greyhound should be completely disinfected to remove any residual contamination.

Greyhounds which become unwell in themselves, are lethargic, anorexic or have a persistent coughing (>24 hours) should be seen by your veterinarian.

Your veterinarian can provide you with information about treatment, isolation/quarantine and vaccination options for the affected greyhound(s) and any other dogs on your property.

Greyhounds that have confirmed or suspected to have Kennel Cough should be scratched from races and not brought to Club facilities as they pose a risk of infection to other greyhounds. Trainers should also alert the Stewards to help monitor for any potential outbreak, and to reduce the risk and minimise the impact of an outbreak, particularly when multiple animals are affected.