

RWWA Greyhound Vaccination Guidelines (updated - new rules as of 31 January 2022)

The rules of greyhound racing detail the minimum vaccination requirements of racing greyhounds at various stages of their life.

The requirements at different stages of a greyhound's life are detailed in Rule 25 (3) as;

- (a) C3 Vaccination between six and eight weeks of age and prior to registration of a litter;
- (b) C5 Vaccination between 10 and 16 weeks of age and prior to registration of a litter;
- (c) C5 Vaccination at between 12 and 16 months of age and prior to naming; and
- (d) once in every further 12-month period a C5 Vaccination unless a veterinarian certifies the greyhound is protected to a C5 level.

C3 Vaccination means a vaccination administered to a greyhound by a veterinarian to provide appropriate protection against canine parvovirus, canine distemper virus and canine adenovirus (hepatitis).

C5 Vaccination means a vaccination administered to a greyhound by a veterinarian that provides appropriate protection against canine parvovirus, canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus (hepatitis), parainfluenza virus and bordetella bronchiseptica (kennel cough).

Guidelines to Veterinarians and Industry - "certification of protection to a C5 level" (Rule 25 (3) (d))

A C5 is essentially made up of 2 separate components;

- A C3 which provides protection against canine parvovirus, canine distemper virus and canine adenovirus (hepatitis) and;
- A kennel cough vaccine which provides protection against parainfluenza virus and bordetella bronchiseptica

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) current vaccination guidelines state that; *(see footnote)*

- In an animal over 12 months of age a C3 vaccination is only required to be administered every 3 years to be "current"
- A kennel cough vaccine (parainfluenza and Bordatella bronchiseptica) is required to be administered every 12 months to be "current"

To comply with the provisions of Rule 25 (3)(d) an owner must supply evidence of a "current" vaccination certificate. To this extent the certificate must provide evidence that either;

- A C5 vaccination has been administered every 12 months; or
- Where a veterinarian has determined that the C3 component of the vaccination is considered current for a 3-year period, that within that 3-year period an additional kennel cough vaccination (parainfluenza and bordetella bronchiseptica) has been administered every 12 months by the veterinary surgeon.

RWWA therefore advises that a vaccination certificate can only be considered current if both the C3 (minimum every 3 years) and the kennel cough (minimum 12 monthly) components of the C5 vaccination are current and neither component is overdue for re-vaccination. In addition, under new sub-rule 25 (6) a greyhound cannot compete in an event within 7 days of a vaccination.

Footnote

The standard vaccine administered in Australia is the C3 vaccine which provides protection against canine parvovirus, canine hepatitis and canine distemper virus (Day, Horzinek, & Schultz, 2010). The inclusion of the canine parainfluenza vaccine upgrades the vaccine to a C4 and the inclusion of the B. bronchiseptica vaccine upgrades the vaccine to a C5 (Day, Horzinek, & Schultz, 2010).

When referring to the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) guidelines for canine vaccination against CIRDC pathogens, they recommend that should intranasal or oral live attenuated vaccines be used that dogs are revaccinated every 12 months as IgA antibodies are reduced in circulation after 12 months (Day, Horzinek, & Schultz, 2010).