

# Biosecurity FAQ

## What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity encompasses preventative measures designed to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. Procedures can be categorised into **preparedness, surveillance** and **detection** protocols, with the overall aim to improve greyhound health through stringent initiatives. Procedures can further be refined to methods of cleaning, disinfection, vaccinations, reduced animal contact, and movement restrictions etc.

## Why Should I care?

It only takes one outbreak to cause widespread industry ramifications. Primary implications are relative to the health and welfare of your greyhounds, increased susceptibility causing increased chance of mortality and long-term health risks. Trainers, punters, and controlling bodies can be impacted, where significant interruption to the racing program is caused. Disease outbreaks, if not appropriately managed, have the chance of closing kennels, and temporarily closing race meetings in significant circumstances.

## What Are Some Common Diseases?

- **Kennel Cough:** Dry, hacking cough.
- **Gastroenteritis:** Gastrointestinal issues (diarrhea).
- **Canine Influenza:** Flu based symptoms.
- **Distemper:** Serious viral infection (fever, respiratory, GI, neurological)
- **Parvovirus:** Bloody diarrhea, lethargy etc.

## What Does Preparedness Look Like?

Preparedness within an industry looks at the evaluation of facilities and plans in place for expected disease outbreaks. Properties should have a preparedness plan in place for the likeliness of disease outbreak, looking into:

- Identifications of likely diseases.
- Specifications into methods for detecting or diagnosing diseases.
- Being aware of treatment options (knowing veterinary clinics and associated functions).
- Have training or knowledge of disease management strategies.
- Facility setup – ensuring equipped for disease outbreak.

## What Does Surveillance Look Like?

Surveillance refers to monitoring your greyhounds for identifiable signs of disease. Quick and efficient disease identification and response will lead to a greater chance of minimising infectious disease transmission between greyhounds of both your and other training facilities. Positive cases should be confirmed by a registered veterinarian and reported in this instant to a controlling body within GRSA. Participants in confirmed outbreak areas should be vigilant of staff, and where possible, increase daily greyhound checks.

### **I Have An Infectious Disease Outbreak, how do I Control it?**

Based on your veterinarian's diagnosis and treatment, generally participants will be informed to isolate and quarantine greyhounds appropriately. With acknowledgement to your preparedness plan, dynamic use of kennel space will likely be required to isolate infected greyhounds, and quarantine potentially exposed greyhounds.

- **Isolation** refers to the movement and separation of **infected** greyhounds from the rest of the kennel population.
- **Quarantine** refers to the movement and separation of greyhounds potentially exposed to an infectious pathogen, either through indirect or direct contact. Based on veterinary guidance, greyhounds should be quarantined for the designated incubation period relevant to the disease.

Due to the varying incubation periods, and different ways in which specific greyhounds will display symptoms, it is vital that quarantine methods are followed, and where possible, a systematic approach is met. An effective biosecurity plan will see the management of greyhounds separated into categories **INFECTIOUS**, **POTENTIAL** and **CLEAR**, and dealt with based on hygienic and effective control measures.

- **INFECTIOUS** greyhounds are those either displaying clinical signs, or those with a confirmed diagnosis by a veterinarian. These greyhounds should be isolated, with advisory actions from your veterinarian.
- **POTENTIAL** greyhounds are those who have had contact with **INFECTIOUS** greyhounds, however, are not displaying symptoms. These greyhounds should be quarantined and monitored closely for clinical signs.
- **CLEAR** greyhounds have had no contact with **INFECTIOUS** or **POTENTIAL** greyhounds, display no symptoms, and should be separated from the other 2 groups.

### **Minimising Risk**

- Effective cleaning and disinfection measures play a large role in managing the potential risk of contamination throughout a property. Organic matter (faeces, urine etc.) should be cleared from kennels before disinfecting, to ensure chemicals are not neutralised rendering them useless.
- Wear protective clothing and disinfect clothing and shoes when dealing with potentially infectious diseases to limit the possibility of spread.
- Avoid unnecessary movement of greyhounds on and off the property.
- **DO NOT** NOMINATE **INFECTIOUS** OR **POTENTIAL** GREYHOUNDS IN RACE MEETINGS, TO ENSURE SPREAD DOES NOT REACH OTHER KENNELS/FACILITIES.
- Contact your veterinarian for greater detail on infection control, disinfection products and general treatment.