

Exertional Rhabdomyolysis “Tied Up” in Greyhounds

Best compared with a muscle cramp, exertional rhabdomyolysis refers to extreme muscle damage that occurs as a result of short, high-intensity workouts.

Causes

One common name for this condition is “tied up”, although there are a few different causes, this disorder is most commonly seen in greyhounds that have extreme exercise schedules, trailing or are raced too frequently.

Clinical Signs

- Reluctance to move
- Unsteady or stiff around the rump and back legs
- May appear to be in pain
- Muscles along the back will feel hard when touched (Latissimus, quadriceps and bicep muscles, “saddle area”)
- Struggling or reluctant to urinate

pH levels in greyhounds

Normal greyhound urine should be in the pH range of 6.0 to 6.5. If a greyhound pH level is found to be at between 7.3 to 8.3 (high alkaline) research has shown that this can be a contributing factor to the dog becoming tied up. pH test kits are available at your local chemist or can be purchased online.

Treatment

ALWAYS seek Veterinarian advise for any health issues regarding your greyhound

Prevention

- Easing your dog into appropriate levels of training
- Monitoring your dog closely pre and post-race and after exercise
- Keeping your dog very well hydrated at all times
- Ensuring the dog is well rested between training and races

