

Canine enteric coronavirus

Protect your dogs

Canine enteric coronavirus is a type of coronavirus that causes intestinal disease in dogs. The virus is highly infectious but considered to cause relatively mild disease. It is found worldwide and has been reported in Australian dogs since the 1980s

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner confirmed an outbreak of Canine enteric coronavirus in greyhounds in South East Queensland on 13 February 2020. The virus does not affect people or other species and is unrelated to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection among people.

Canine enteric coronavirus and a number of other infectious diseases in dogs can be prevented with good hygiene and biosecurity practices. Do your bit to protect your dogs.

Know the signs.

- In adult dogs, the majority of infections will result in no symptoms.
- A single instance of vomiting and a few days of explosive diarrhoea may occur.
- Fever is typically very rare, while anorexia and depression are more common.

Puppies are most at risk of developing serious complications with this virus. Infection in puppies will occasionally result in death.

Know how it spreads.

The most common source of a canine enteric coronavirus infection is exposure to faeces from an infected dog. The virus can remain in the body and be shed into the faeces for up to six months.

Stress caused by over-intensive training, overcrowding and poor hygiene increase a dog's susceptibility to canine enteric coronavirus infection. Additionally, places and events where dogs gather are the most likely locations for the virus to spread.

If it looks suspicious, [contact your local vet.](#)



Know how to prevent it.

- **Wash your hands** before and after handling dogs.
- **Clean and disinfect** housing, bedding and food and water bowls regularly, especially before new dogs or puppies are introduced or after any illness.
- **Isolate** any sick dogs away from other animals and seek immediate veterinary advice.
- **Vaccinate** puppies and dogs and keep their boosters up to date.
- **De-worm** dogs regularly.
- **Control** fleas, ticks, insects and other pests, such as rodents.
- **Limit visitors** to your kennels, especially if they have been handling other dogs. Make sure they wash their hands and shoes before entering your property. If possible, make sure they don't visit young, old or sick animals.
- **Put up a property biosecurity sign** to remind visitors of your biosecurity rules.

There is no specific treatment for canine enteric coronavirus. However, supportive care is important and trainers should isolate sick dogs and seek immediate veterinary advice.

Appropriate veterinary care must be provided for sick or injured greyhounds. Trainers must not allow diseased or injured greyhounds to race, be overworked or offered for sale.

While a vaccine is available is available for canine enteric coronavirus in Australia, it is not recommended in all situations as it does not stop infection or limit shedding of the virus. It should only be used under veterinary advice.

If it looks suspicious, contact your local vet.