GRNSW continues to monitor and assess reports of disease in greyhounds, particularly in the Hunter Valley region.

Although many reports are consistent with the more common and self-limiting infectious respiratory diseases (viral ‘kennel cough’), this can still be considered a health burden for the dogs, a risk factor for contracting more serious secondary infections and an imposition on trainers and kennels.

For this reason, GRNSW is emphasising the importance of employing good bio-security and disease management practices.

If a dog within a facility is found to be coughing, it should be isolated for approximately two weeks to minimise spread of disease through viral shedding. Previously in contact dogs should be monitored for approximately one week to account for the incubation period of many respiratory pathogens.

Within this period it is strongly advised to avoid movement of any dogs from the facility to avoid spread of infection and to prevent exacerbation of the disease.

Any additional stress to the dogs in terms of travel, strenuous exercise and other challenges risks increasing the chance and severity of illness during periods of exposure.

Having healthy dogs vaccinated for kennel cough reduces the chance of the disease and the likelihood of contracting more serious secondary infections such as *Streptococcus zooepidemicus*.

Further testing is underway in an attempt to confirm previous reports of *S.zooepidemicus*.

There have been no further confirmed cases of this disease.

GRNSW is continuing to monitor reports and work to formulate and implement disease surveillance strategies to best assist industry in the future.

There have been a series of suspected, and some confirmed, cases of *Streptococcus equi subsp zooepidemicus (S.zooepidemicus)* in greyhounds in the Hunter region.

Infected dogs may initially present with signs similar to “kennel cough” including a cough and nasal discharge. However, the disease may rapidly progress to the potentially life threatening Canine Haemorrhagic Pneumonia (CHP). The disease is characterised by fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, mucoid to blood tinged nasal discharge, rapid or laboured breathing and collapse.

Occasionally sudden death occurs without observing any prior signs.

Trainers are advised to closely monitor their greyhounds and seek veterinary attention if they observe any of the described signs. Respiratory disease, including the “cough” should prompt contact with your veterinarian. It is not advisable to administer any cough medications without veterinary advice due to the confirmed presence of *S.zooepidemicus* in the Hunter region and the subsequent risk of more serious disease developing. Recovery is achievable with timely veterinary intervention.

It is also important to be aware that *S.zooepidemicus* is highly contagious and spread by contact between dogs. Therefore, it poses a risk to kennel facilities and the industry as a whole. For this reason, if signs of disease are
detected strict biosecurity principles should be employed including isolation of any dogs suspected of illness and cessation of movement of dogs off the property. Transport and movement of greyhounds for sale, breaking-in and relocation should not occur and presentation of symptomatic dogs at trial tracks and race meetings must be avoided.

*S. zooepidemicus* is considered a zoonotic disease as there has been a single confirmed case of transmission from a dog to a human. Please exercise due caution and good hygiene practices.

Trainers should advise Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) of any confirmed or suspected cases of *S. zooepidemicus* infection, pneumonia or sudden deaths to assist with surveillance and tracking of this important disease.

GRNSW can be contacted by calling *(02) 8767 0500* or by emailing *vets@grnsw.com.au*. 