

**Vaccinations are vital in preventing disease in greyhounds. With many greyhounds housed together in kennels and racing, regular vaccinations are essential. Vaccination will protect your greyhounds, and the greyhound population as a whole, against infectious disease.**

The NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice and the Greyhound Racing Rules both include requirements to ensure that greyhounds are vaccinated. This fact sheet explains the requirements and the vaccinations involved.

### What Are the Rules?

Vaccination requirements are set out in the Code of Practice and the Greyhound Racing Rules:

#### NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice

3.12 Participants must ensure that all greyhounds in their care are vaccinated from the age of 6–8 weeks, and that vaccinations are kept up to date. **R**.

3.13 Unless a veterinarian has provided contrary advice in writing, greyhounds must be vaccinated against:

- Distemper virus **R**
- Parvovirus **R**
- Canine Adenovirus **R**
- Parainfluenza virus **R**
- Bordetella bronchiseptica **R**.

#### Greyhound Racing Rules R25(3)

##### MINIMUM VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RACING GREYHOUNDS

- C3 Vaccination** between six and eight weeks of age and prior to registration of a litter;
- C5 Vaccination** between 10 and 16 weeks of age and prior to registration of a litter;

- C5 Vaccination** at between 12 and 16 months of age and prior to naming; and
- once in every further 12-month period a C5 Vaccination unless a veterinarian certifies the greyhound is protected to a C5 level.

From 1 October 2023, greyhounds cannot be nominated to race unless a current vaccination certificate has been provided. A certificate from a Veterinarian must provide evidence that either:

- A C5 vaccination has been administered every 12 months; or
- A veterinarian has determined that the C3 component of the vaccination is current for a 3-year period and that, within that 3-year period, an additional kennel cough vaccination has been administered every 12 months by the veterinarian.

### What is a C5 Vaccine?

A **C5 Vaccine** is comprised of 2 components (**C3 + Kennel Cough vaccine**).

- The C3 vaccine is considered a 'core' vaccine as it provides protection against the potentially fatal diseases of canine Distemper virus (D), canine Adenovirus (hepatitis) (H), and canine Parvovirus (P).
- The Kennel Cough vaccine is considered a 'non-core' vaccine as it provides protection for "at-risk" animals (i.e., those that regularly contact other dogs) against Parainfluenza virus (PI) and Bordetella Bronchiseptica (BB).

Kennel Cough vaccines may be administered via injection, or intra-nasal solution or oral solution (BB only). Most vets recommend the intra-nasal or oral forms over the injectable versions because they provide better protection against Bordetella. Evidence has also suggested the intranasal vaccine offers the best protection.

More Information regarding Kennel Cough can be found here:

[Kennel-Cough-FAQs](#)

### **Puppy Vaccinations**

Puppies should receive their first vaccination at 6-8 weeks of age (the Code of Practice prohibits vaccinating puppies before the age of 4 weeks, unless authorised by a veterinarian).

This is because puppies are born with a level of immunity from their mother and vaccinating a puppy too early will have no effect.

It is essential for bitches to be vaccinated to a C5 level before breeding to ensure antibodies are transferred to their puppies.

Best practice recommends booster vaccinations continue every 3-4 weeks till a puppy is 16 weeks of age, but as long as a puppy receives its second vaccination at 12-16 weeks you will be complying with the Greyhound Racing Rules.

Puppies must not be moved from their whelping property until two weeks after they have been microchipped (typically at 12 weeks of age). This allows the pups to build up some immunity following vaccination.

Puppy vaccination records need to include the following information;

- Parentage - Sire and Dam
- Whelp date
- Gender
- Colour
- Type of vaccination
- Vet details
- Vaccination date.

### **Adult vaccinations**

Greyhounds must receive a C5 vaccination between 12-16 months of age, prior to naming.

After this, C5 booster vaccinations must be administered every 12 months. In some cases however (if certified by your veterinarian) a C5 may be given every 3 years, with only a kennel cough

(Parainfluenza and Bordatella) given every 12 months within that 3 month period.

For your C5 vaccination to be 'current' (and therefore comply with the Rules), both the C3 (minimum every 3 years) and the Kennel Cough (minimum 12 monthly) must be up to date.

In addition, under sub-rule 25(6) a greyhound cannot compete in an event within 7 days of receiving a vaccination.

### **Notifying GWIC**

Copies of vaccination records need to be provided to GWIC. Participants will not be able to register, name, or – after 1 Oct 2023 – race a greyhound unless proof of vaccination has been provided. Blank vaccination certificates are available on the GWIC website.

### **Leptospirosis and Coronavirus Vaccination**

It is possible to provide additional protection for your greyhound against:

- *Leptospira copenhageni* (Leptospirosis)
- Corona virus (or canine infectious diarrhoea)

This additional vaccination is not required under the Rules but will give you the added assurance that your dog is protected.

Given the recent rise in cases of Leptospirosis and intermittent outbreaks of canine coronavirus in NSW, the Commission encourages participants to vaccinate their dogs against these as a preventative measure. Details of these 2 diseases can be found here:

[Leptospirosis-2022](#)

[Canine Coronavirus](#)

Two vaccinations are required, 2-4 weeks apart. The Leptospirosis/Coronavirus vaccination may be administered as a unique vaccine or in combination with C3 and Kennel Cough vaccines (this combination is often referred to as the "C7 vaccine").

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Commission's Veterinarian team on 13 GWIC (13 49 42) or email [vets@gwic.nsw.gov.au](mailto:vets@gwic.nsw.gov.au) .**