

KENNEL COUGH Q&A – RTI RELEASE

Are the death dates and causes of death correct for Lipstick Lacy and Lonely Hunter?

No, the causes of death originally recorded for Lipstick Lacy and Lonely Hunter are not correct.

Records have recently been updated to include greyhounds that died in 2025. In reviewing these cases, a veterinarian engaged by Tasracing provided the following advice:

- 25/5524 (Lipstick Lacy): The greyhound appeared to have a chronic condition affecting the thoracic cavity and diaphragm. The final cause of death was determined to be significant blood loss into the chest cavity, resulting in lung collapse.
- 25/5602 (Lonely Hunter): The greyhound appeared to have bacterial infections of the lungs involving both *E. coli* and *Streptococcus lutetiensis*, either of which would have been capable of causing death.

The vet's opinion is that neither of the organisms isolated from these 2 dogs are typically related to kennel cough. Accordingly, the recorded information has been reviewed and updated to reflect the veterinary findings.

When did Tasracing become aware that the deaths of these two greyhounds were kennel cough related?

As stated above, the information that the Tasracing Integrity Unit has is that the deaths of these two greyhounds were not related to kennel cough.

The inclusion of these greyhounds as kennel cough-related deaths in the records was a reporting error, which has since been identified and corrected following further veterinary advice.

Were these two greyhounds the first deaths in the kennel cough outbreak? If this is the case why hasn't the information been updated publicly?

No. These two greyhounds were not the first deaths in the kennel cough outbreak.

As noted above, their inclusion as kennel cough-related deaths was the result of a reporting error. The records have since been reviewed and corrected to reflect the available veterinary information.

Have further investigations taken place into the initial source of the kennel cough outbreak? If so what did these investigations conclude?

At the beginning of Tasracing becoming aware of greyhounds displaying signs typical of kennel cough (coughing and mild upper respiratory signs), it conducted a survey of all Tasmanian greyhound trainers to establish the extent of the outbreak (number of kennels affected and their geographical distribution) at that point in time. The information from this survey did not resolve down to individual dog level.

Determining the original source of the outbreak would have been extremely challenging, as kennel cough is not specific to greyhounds and cases were being reported more broadly from within the Tasmanian dog community at the same time. Tracing the initial source of infection in such an outbreak involving the wider canine population is beyond Tasracing's powers or remit. No other Australian greyhound racing jurisdictions reported any cases of kennel cough prior to the Tasmanian cases.

Accordingly, no conclusions were reached regarding the original source of the outbreak.

Please provide the names of all greyhounds with recorded cases of kennel cough between 1 June 2025 and 23 September 2026. Please include dates these cases were reported and the location of the greyhounds when they became unwell.

For reasons stated above, the Tasracing Integrity Unit does not hold a complete record of all greyhounds that contracted kennel cough.

During the outbreak, licensed participants remained responsible for the day-to-day observation, management and treatment of greyhounds in their care. Industry controls focused on managing the spread of disease at a population level, through movement restrictions and the cancellation of race meetings and trials while active cases were present within the industry.

Trainers were not required to report every greyhound that displayed clinical signs consistent with kennel cough. Furthermore, it is likely that some infected greyhounds either showed mild symptoms or remained asymptomatic. As a result, Tasracing does not have comprehensive data on every individual case.

Where deaths of greyhounds occurred that were temporally associated with the kennel cough outbreak, additional measures were implemented. In particular, the three trainers whose kennels experienced deaths of greyhounds that coincided with the kennel cough outbreak were required for their kennels to provide a veterinary clearance assuring all greyhounds in their care were cleared of kennel cough, before resuming racing activities or permitting interactions with other greyhounds.

Please provide the names of all greyhounds who died or were euthanised because of the recent kennel cough outbreak between 1 June 2025 and 23 September 2026.

There are a number of recorded greyhound deaths that coincided with the kennel cough outbreak during the period of Feb-Apr 2026.

It should be noted that, while these greyhounds died during the period of the kennel cough outbreak they were all diagnosed with lower respiratory disease-causing organisms not generally associated with the kennel cough disease complex. Rather, these deaths have been recorded as being associated with the outbreak.

Is it possible that there are other greyhound deaths during this period, for example where the cause of death is unknown, that could be related to kennel cough?

Kennel cough is generally described as a self-limiting upper respiratory disease unlikely to directly result in the death of affected dogs, other than very young or old and debilitated dogs. While it can never be completely ruled out that a greyhound death during this period may have had some association with kennel cough, the Tasracing Integrity Unit considers this to be highly unlikely.

None of the greyhounds that underwent necropsy and laboratory testing during this period showed laboratory evidence of kennel cough.

On the basis of the necropsy and testing results available, the Tasracing Integrity Unit is not aware of any other greyhound deaths during the relevant period that are believed to be related to the kennel cough outbreak.

This application has been granted in full and no information has been withheld, redacted or otherwise exempted from release under the Act.