

ANAEMIA

Anaemia is not a common problem if greyhounds are fed on a reasonably balanced diet and are regularly wormed and treated for fleas.

Animals that are fed on a white meat based diet, such as chicken or fish, bred as a dry food, or a biscuit or dry food containing a low level of iron and other blood forming nutrients are likely to develop anaemia over a 2-3 week period.

The first signs would be a lack of stamina when racing and failure to finish strongly, often associated with pale gums and a dull coat.

If greyhounds are fed on a red meat diet and given an adequate amount of good quality dry food, then this should supply a sufficient amount of iron (about 8-10mg per day) and other blood forming nutrients to meet the demands for blood formation.

There is no need to have blood tests taken on a regular basis to test for anaemia, unless the animals show signs as outlined above.

Some trainers arrange for a blood count to be taken on a greyhound that had been in training for an extended time to monitor anaemia and changes associated with chronic stress.