



# ANAEMIA FACT SHEET

Anaemia is a lower than normal number of red blood cells circulating in the blood stream.



Anaemia can be caused by stress of training, lack of iron in the diet, or blood loss (via injury, gastro-intestinal tract bleeding, or more commonly internal or external parasites such as hookworm, whipworm or fleas).

Females can also become anaemic during pregnancy, even during a false pregnancy after being on season.

A blood count measuring the dog's PCV ('packed cell volume' which is the percentage of the blood volume that is made up of red blood cells) will identify the anaemia.

A greyhound has a normal PCV between 58-62%.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF AN ANAEMIC GREYHOUND?

You may notice:

- weakness and fatigue;
- lack of appetite;
- weight loss;
- dark faeces.
- reduced performance, particularly in the later sections of a trial or race - the dog often runs well early but fades after 200-250 metres.

*If you suspect your greyhound may be anaemic, you must seek veterinary attention as soon as possible. Anaemia can be difficult to correct if not treated promptly.*

## HOW CAN ANAEMIA BE TREATED?

Treatment involves identifying the cause of the blood loss, correcting this and providing additional 'building blocks' for the body to produce more red blood cells.

### Treatments include:

- **applying worm and flea treatment products;**
- **giving additional iron rich foods, and supplements (either oral or injectable forms) containing iron, vitamin B-12 and folic acid.**

*Remember your race withdrawal times for cobalt if supplementing with vitamin B-12.*

