

Neospora caninum infection in greyhounds

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The issue of *N caninum* infection in greyhounds continues to be discussed and the infection is often blamed for abortions, stillbirths and clinical episodes in young pups. These are the clinical signs often reported and associated with *N caninum* infection in dogs (1). Greyhounds are also often bred and reared in areas of high cattle population, especially on or amongst dairy farms where the copious supply of 'unfit for human consumption' milk and skinny cows have been readily consumed by large numbers of greyhounds.

A first step to determining the higher or not exposure of greyhounds to *N caninum* infection would be a serological survey, using a competitive ELISA (VMRD, Pullman, WA, USA) that has been validated for use in dogs, on different population of greyhounds (those that have been raised on dairy farms, fed raw bovine tissue etc. compared with city-raised, fed on commercially prepared diets etc.).

Dr J McNicholl is preparing to sample greyhounds around racetracks around South and South-Eastern Australia and a survey could be constructed around her sampling route. Appropriate application of a questionnaire might be used to identify risk factors in the feeding and/or rearing of these greyhounds.

Reference

1. Reichel MP, Ellis JT, Dubey JP. Neosporosis and hammondiosis in dogs. J Small Anim Pract. 2007 Jun;48(6):308-12.