

More dogs go down at Tucson Greyhound Park

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Written By Sean Mooney

Tucson - More dogs go down at Tucson Greyhound Park and now there is word of an outbreak of viral pneumonia.

It has been called the race track were greyhounds go to die. That's happened twice in the last two weeks along with reports of other dogs sick and injured.

During the fifth race on February 24, three dogs ended up in a tangled mess on the first turn. Four races later, a greyhound in box 1 never made it out of the gate, falling over at the start.

Before the evening was over, another dog broke its hock, which is the injury seen most on the track. And since February 17th, four dogs have been diagnosed with viral pneumonia. Two have died.

The animals were all taken to Briarcrest Veterinary Care Center. When News 4 contacted the clinic, the person who answered the phone would not comment on the condition of the remaining greyhounds "Bolt" and Flash" or provide any other information. Dr. Janet Forrer, a veterinarian with Sunrise Pet Clinic, said she is not surprised by the caregiver's hesitation to talk.

"I think there is a lot of good intention, but there is just not a coordinated effort to do what needs to be done to take care of the dogs and I wish I knew why."

The Arizona Department of Gaming acknowledged the viral pneumonia cases, but said it is not considered an outbreak.

"In the past two weeks, the department has been made aware of four dogs in total leaving TGP for respiratory illnesses. It is important to note that is only 1% of the canine population at the track and does not create a need to address an outbreak at this time. However, as a precaution, the track has self-imposed a quarantine that does not allow new dogs to enter the track."

While no new dogs will be allowed, the track is not shutting down. Races are scheduled to take place on Wednesday night and throughout the rest of the week.



Courtesy: Southern Arizona Greyhound Adoption Facebook