



Sadie and Katie.
Photos by: Steve Uyehara

GREYHOUNDS HEALTH AND WELLNESS QUARTERLY

OHIO STATE COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

By Liliana Marin & Guillermo Couto



Katie Uyehara.

PERSISTENT URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS IN FEMALE GREYHOUNDS

Does your female Greyhound experience the following signs repeatedly?

- Irritation and inflammation of the skin that surrounds the vulva (perivulvar dermatitis).
- Frequent urination (pollakiuria).
- Urinary incontinence.
- Licking or other signs of irritation around the vulva.
- Chronic urinary tract infection (UTI).
- Vaginitis with or without discharge.
- Vulvar hyperpigmentation (darkening of the skin).

If you answer Yes to 2 or more, she might have a combination of vulvar hypoplasia (underdevelopment) and/or recessed vulva, also called tucked vulva.

WHAT IS IT, AND WHAT CAUSES RECESSED VULVA?

Greyhounds are elite athletes, everyone has seen their unbelievably large hindlimb muscles; Unfortunately what makes them effective sprinters, could also sometimes get them in trouble. If you look female Greyhounds from behind, you will notice that sometimes it is very difficult to see their vulvas. Either because their hindlimb muscles are compressing it, because there is an excessive amount of skin covering it, or both. Some racing females also have clitoral hypertrophy (enlargement of the clitoris), due to the drugs used to suppress heat cycles.

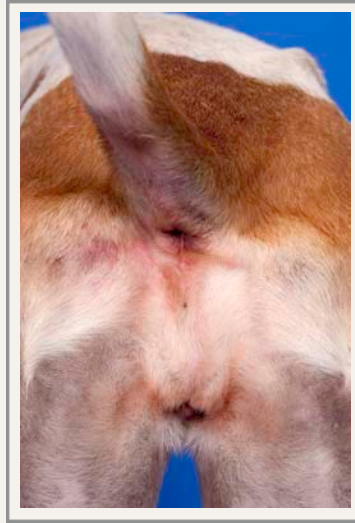
Constant compression and friction of the vulva in combination with excessive vulvar skin, causes retention of urine and secretions. This predispose the area to irritation, bacterial growth, infection and inflammation.



Sadie and Katie.

G
R
E
Y
H
O
U
N
D
S

The following photos are an example of what seem to be a normal vulva in a Greyhound, but sometimes it is necessary to pull up the skin around the vulva to visualize the inflammation and irritation.



WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR RECESSED VULVA?

Regular cleaning of the affected area, topical application of antibacterial ointment to control dermatitis and/or systemic medications for urinary incontinence are helpful; However the most successful and definitive treatment is the removal of excess tissue, a procedure called vulvoplasty, vaginoplasty or episioplasty.

This surgery not only helps to eliminate the primary cause of the signs, which is the excessive skin that covers the vulva; also helps with the secondary signs such as licking, secretion, etc.

Usually the recovery time is very short; Analgesics and antibiotics might be prescribed, and since the patients are likely to lick the area, a racing muzzle must be kept until the stitches are removed.

The potential complications of the surgery are would dehiscence (incision breaking open), due to removal of too much skin. Formation of seroma, and swelling are other potential complications; however some post-operative swelling is normal.

The prognosis of the surgery is excellent, and it is the best option to treat persistent urinary tract infections in female Greyhounds, after other causes are discarded.



Greyhound 24
hours after
episioplasty

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2011 GREYHOUND PROGRAM CONFERENCE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAY 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26		28
29	30	31	JUNE 1	2		4



For further information or to register, please see our website at

<https://vetmedce.osu.edu/ceactivities/conferences/index.cfm?action=coursesview&eventID=39171> or contact:

Office of Veterinary Continuing Education

- Phone: (614) 292-8727
- Email: vetmedce@osu.edu

- * C. Guillermo Couto, DVM
- * Cristina Iazbik, DVM
- * Liliana Marin, DVM
- * Sara Zaldivar, DVM

Email address: greyosu@osu.edu

Direct Phone number: (614) 247-6757
(614) 247-8490

WE DEPEND ON YOUR GENEROSITY!!

“Our mission of helping the Greyhounds is supported by your kindness”.

To make a donation to the Greyhound Health and Wellness Program please use the link below to the secure website for online giving <https://greyhound.osu.edu/giving/> or contact Dr. Guillermo Couto (couto.1@osu.edu) or Karen Longbrake (longbrake.1@osu.edu).

We thank you very much for your generous support so that we may continue our mission to help the Greyhounds.

The Ohio State University
Veterinary Medical Center
601 Vernon L. Tharp Street.
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Companion Animal Ph: (614) 292-3551



GREYHOUND S