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C. Thomas Taylor
CEO & General Manager
Tucson Greyhound Park
2601 S. Third Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85713

Dear Mr. Taylor:

An ongoing problem seen in athletic and working dogs is how to manage the estrus cycle (heat cycle) in the female dog. The Racing Greyhound is one of many types of dogs that participate in some form of athletic or working activity. Some of the other activities include detection dog work, service dog efforts, sled dogs, pointing breeds, retrievers, flushers, and herding. In most of these activities, the female has the same capabilities as the male to perform these tasks. Although females have the same potential to participate, the occurrence of estrus can create havoc in the work environment of the dog. It can lead to a disruption of the living environment and the work environment.

In most working dog environments the female has to be removed from the housing facility and is not able to work due to the smells she produces during this part of the reproductive cycle. Her presence creates in-fighting of the males, negative dog-to-dog interaction of the females, can stimulate other females to go into estrous and can alter working environments. In the detection dog this can be a big issue, especially if an incident occurs in which the female dog is needed to locate someone, identify the presence of a bomb or confirm the presence of an illegal substance. She is basically unable to participate. This scenario does not keep female dogs from being a part of these efforts; it just creates the necessity of a management program that can address these types of issues.

It is important to maintain the capabilities for reproduction in the working group of dogs. Not all dogs are capable of performing these tasks at competent or elite levels. Therefore when a female dog exhibits a high level of skill, the intact female can have the opportunity to cross with a male dog that has also exhibited an elite skill set. This is very important when trying to reduce the number of ineffective breeding pairs. In other words, it leads to breeding for quality not quantity. Therefore, spaying female dogs who participate in athletic or working events can have a negative affect on the future performance level of a breed. It is important to maintain the breeding capabilities of these dogs for future generations. For these reasons suppressing estrus is the best way to manage the female canine athlete.

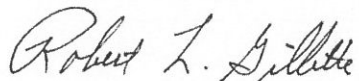
Proper estrus suppression allows greyhound males and females to be housed together and compete together. Historically testosterone supplements or treatments have been used in the racing greyhound industry to suppress estrus. Other treatments have been tested to identify alternative ways to manage females, but they do not seem to be as effective as testosterone. Proper use of testosterone seems to have minimal effect on the reproductive system of the female. Female greyhounds do not seem to have anymore reproductive problems than other breeds. At this time estrus suppression is the optimal method to manage female greyhounds and the use of a proper testosterone regimen is the method of choice.

References:

Management & Nutrition, The Merck Veterinary Manual, 9th Edition.

Phillips TC, Larsen RE, Hernandez J, Strachan L, Samuelson D, Shille VM, Archbald LF. Selective control of the estrous cycle of the dog through suppression of estrus and reduction of the length of anestrus. *Theriogenology*. 2003 Mar;59(5-6):1441-8.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert L. Gillette".

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