

RIP - Remo Rubik

was pole-axed in The Temlee, which was also at Group 1 level.

That is a part and parcel of racing. Luck can work for you, it can work against you or just leave you alone.

Anyhow, Dyna Lachlan for mine was very unfairly criticised leading up to the "Aussie" Cup final.

The dog in no way deserved to be "rubbished" for being there, as he had to win a heat to qualify, and in those eight heats I bet you could find at least eight greyhounds that ran into bother and were stiff not to qualify.

But as I said, that's all a part of racing. Now, when Dyna Lachlan drew the red in the final, I thought he'd start just "in the black", probably at 5/4 in the old lingo. I reckon he went out overs on the TAB for sure.

End of the day, he turned in a brilliant effort to score.

When Galba Jack crossed him into the first bend, he probably should have done what most dogs do, misjudge the turn, veer to the outside and wipe out five or six dogs in the process.

But Dyna Lachlan showed he's one smart puppy, as he lurched left to get around the bend, without going via the cape, and set off after Galba Jack.

Not many dogs could do that. I was rapt to see the dog win (personal reasons), but I was even happier after the race when handler, Tom Dailly was being interviewed.

Tom never really complains too much about things within racing, he just gets on with the job at hand.

In other words, he's a professional in a professional business.

And fair enough, as he earns his living doing this.

However, Tom took a real swipe at the unnamed people that had rubbished his kennel star.

Touché Tommy; couldn't have said it any better myself.

It really is things like unjust criticism that take the gloss right off a win in a race such as this.

This dog deserves the races he wins. He bends his back and gives 100% every time he goes around.

And no one could expect more from a dog than to give you all he's got.

New contender

BY TAKING out the Group 1 Australian Cup final, Dyna Lachlan became a new contender for Rapid Journey's Australian stake-money record of \$530,995.

Dyna Lachlan now has \$431,555 and is heading to Perth for the \$140,000 to the winner Perth Cup.

Of course, he's been there before, that was where he was runner-up in the Group 1 National Sprint Championship Grand Final.

Obviously, if he wins the Perth Cup, he gets the record.

But over there having a crack at the Perth Cup is an "old" contender, local chaser, Miss Slick, who just happens to be the defending Perth Cup champion.

She's currently sitting on \$390,525, again, you don't need to be real bright at arithmetic to realise that if she makes it back to back Cups, she gets the stake money record.

Bear in mind that in each case there's \$10,000 available for winning a heat, and for those Perth Cup chasers that's a must if they're to make the final.

Perth seems to have missed a potential marketing opportunity, as Miss Slick and Dyna Lachlan are booked to clash in a heat.

Of course, also in Perth is another "old" contender, Mantra Lad, who currently has \$455,860 in the bank.

He's not chasing the Perth Cup, he's after the Sky Channel Galaxy, and that race has \$80,000 up for grabs.

So, is Rapid Journey's record under threat?

An RJ fan

I'VE RECEIVED a few emails from a relative newcomer to our game, and I've had one sitting in the inbox for a few weeks just waiting for a chance to share with you because it made me realise something... not all of us got the chance to see Rapid Journey race.

"Hi again, as you may have worked out I'm heaps interested in the race to break the mighty Rapid Journey's prizemoney record." "As years go by, the dogs just get quicker and quicker, and comparing the generations seems to get more and more unreasonable."

"I was just wondering the other day about whether this amazing dog of the mid to late nineties could win a Group 1 in 2010?"

"Then I see that he won in my town of

Adelaide in a flying 29.38!"

"That's a time that would have beaten Dyna Lachlan this year, and would have put him in front of the locked together El Galo and Scull Murphy in '09, and well, you get the picture."

"In all the talk about breaking this great dog's record, it brought me to look beyond the numbers to his true greatness."

"This is a dog that many people today would turn their noses up at his breeding, he ran on tracks that would not be prepared nearly as fast as they are today, and yes, the prizemoney then was smaller than nowadays."

"His greatness should never be forgotten, and I hope his course holds them out, as looking back at him it was an amazing career."

"Dale Hogan."

The only thing that you probably are not correct about is the fast tracks.

We might have had some faster ones than today a generation or two back, as curators loved peppering their tracks, especially at Cup time.

Fortunately those people seem to have moved on and we now have curators that try to give you the safest and best track that's possible, and not "velodromes".

But Rapid Journey's times (on normal tracks) stack-up very favourably with today's stars.

Ouch!

I THINK I just got bitten on the backside, but in a way, I don't mind.

Regular readers will know by now that one of my biggest gripes is the lack of uniformity throughout this fine country of ours.

But "guys", I meant rules and conditions.

I would dearly love to see every State racing under the same set of rules, obvious exceptions being that we do need some slightly different rules for straight tracks, etc.

And conditions should go without saying.

But here in Victoria we have a track-cloning device.

Serious! We must have, because we keep knocking them down and building new ones all the same.

Do Shepparton and Warrambol look identical?

More so than the Waugh twins.

And how about Ballarat, now that is has a 390 metres start?

Yes, a very close cousin.

And Warragul, aw gee shucks, they added 10 metres there somewhere.

Anyhow, I was looking at plans for Geelong's new track, and I have this horrible feeling of déjà vu.

Am I mistaken, or does it look like

Shepparton, Warrambol, Ballarat and Warragul?

Tell you what, there'll be no excuse now for form not stacking-up.

I can see it now, hapless trainer before the Stewards at Geelong being grilled on why his charge, who'd just won at Warrambol, Shepparton and Warragul, finished last.

"He didn't handle the track sir!"

Yeah, sure!

Dana's back

LAST YEAR'S Golden Easter Egg winner, Dana Beatrice is back to defend her crown.

Twelve months ago not many people had heard of her, but she came, saw and conquered the stars to take the race in 2009.

And in an absolutely great final, she had to roll two greats, Miss Elly Mint and El Galo to get the prize.

Can she win it again? Well, it won't be easy, that's for sure, but we definitely know she can, as she has.

You Write

"Kay Cee" (from Canada) emailed some good old Canadian humour for we greyhound folk down under.

"For those greyhound people with low self-esteem, The Greyhound People's Low Self-Esteem Group meets Thursday night at 7.00pm, please use the rear entrance."

"And for those of you struggling with your weight, The Greyhound People's Weight Control Group meets on Friday night at 7.00pm, please use the large double door at the side entrance."

"And on Saturday night at 7.00pm, the Greyhound People's Vertigo Group will meet on the top floor of the grandstand."

"And finally, just a reminder, for those of you who have children and don't know it, there's a nursery downstairs."

Funny, thanks...hehehe.

"Way Tooshort" commented, "What are the race clubs thinking with all of this short-course racing?"

"All the clubs seem to be getting in on the act with Cranbourne, along with Horsham being a main offenders, but also traditional tracks like Ballarat putting in boxes for the short races."

"I think they are heading in the wrong direction with this type of racing. Obviously someone is pushing this agenda from somewhere?"

"The future breeding ranks will also suffer with people breeding from these short course wonders."

"As someone who has bred a lot of dogs, there is no better feeling than seeing your pups run out a strong 500 and win on the city tracks."

"Makes you wonder where these short-

course breeders are coming from."

"I think it is a terrible direction for the sport to be heading."

I've received a lot of feedback on this and you've covered all of what most have said (in part).

But as was noted last week, and I had a real good look through the litters and breeders in Victoria seem to be realising the importance of trying to produce puppies that will get "500".

"Clever Fella" stated, "Whoever that was (and I have a fair idea) that bagged you, they really are talking a load of (deleted and replaced with rubbish)."

"I don't think that you ever sit on the fence. If you have a divided opinion on something you always look at both sides of the coin."

"Anyhow, why run garbage letters like that."

Well CF, I believe in everyone having the right to have their say or express their opinion, rightly or wrongly.

I put the "You Write" segment into this column so everyone could have a voice, if they wanted to.

And whereas most people send favourable letters and emails, I can't be seen to be vetting them and only running ones that are "on my side".

On the other hand, I will not run something that is in poor taste or likely to get me or the paper sued!

"The Curse" again with, "Will the curse hit Dyna Lachlan now?"

Gee, you make it sound like it's the bu-bonic plague...hehehe.

"The Pessimist" comically with, "So you reckon we need more dogs. Maybe Paul Wheeler can arrange for another 100 or so 'Bales' to come to Victoria."

Might want to send 10 or 20 trainers down here with them, I hear most large kennels are already overstocked...hehe.

This week's Teaser

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Pick a two-worded name for the "unnamed dog".

How many possible names can you make using "blank-ot" and "blank-it"?

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last week's answer

ANNA GRAM was at The Meadows for the running of The Australian Cup final.

1. Dyna Lachlan
2. Galba Jack
3. Arvo's Breeze
4. Prankster
5. High Earner
6. Dyna Obelia
7. Manuel Bale
8. Birthday Boy

Parvo update

Canine Parvovirus was first found to cause disease in dogs in 1978. The virus most likely mutated and jumped from a mild infection of foxes or mink to a fatal disease of dogs.

There are five recognized strains, and worldwide the canine parvovirus virus 2b is the predominant one.

Unfortunately, it would appear that in recent weeks there has been resurgence in the number of outbreaks in metropolitan areas.

Failure to vaccinate can prove very costly indeed.

Vaccines need to be administered at 6 weeks, and depending of the brand of vaccine, between 10 and 12 weeks.

Vaccines are developed from taking the live virus and allowing it to reproduce in tissue culture repeatedly until it no longer induces illness in animals exposed to the cultured virus.

The vaccine development can be continued until other undesirable side-effects are reduced, such as immuno-suppression.

The early strains of the vaccine were produced in the face of a worldwide epidemic, which was killing litters of puppies.

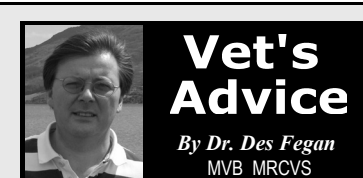
And while they did reduce death rates, there was a significant depression of the immune system for 10 to 14 days after the injections and illness, which was directly related to the administration of the vaccine.

This led to a skeptical public response to the benefits of vaccination.

Some older vaccines are derived from the CPV2 or CPV2a strain of the disease.

While they induce an immune response which is certainly protective against death from Parvovirus attack, they may not produce a strong enough response to prevent some damage to the immune system, the initial phase of the infection, and thus exposing the puppy to disease from another bacteria or virus.

For greyhounds reared in a farm environment with likely exposure to the virus from previous contamination, I consider it essential to vaccinate with a virus derived from the CPV2b strain.



Vet's Advice

By Dr. Des Fegan
MVB MRCVS

Ask your vet for information on the different brands available.

Vaccines derived from the older strains of the disease are still widely used, and providing the puppy does not get ill within the first two weeks after administration, an acceptable immune response is generated.

The disease is an inflammation of the gastro-intestinal tract, resulting in a bloody diarrhoea, which often leads to death.

The virus is very resistant, surviving in the environment for months to years.

Common household bleach or several commercial Parvovirus-specific antiviral disinfectants are the best disinfecting agents for destroying the virus.

Bleach is a good kennel disinfectant, but it is important to understand that it is unrealistic to expect to eradicate Parvovirus, and an effective vaccination program is essential to avoid the distress of illness and deaths in young greyhounds.

Susceptible greyhounds pick up the virus orally from the faeces of infected dogs or from the environment, months or years after infected faecal material was deposited in the soil.

The virus then multiplies in the nearby lymphoid tissues, such as lymph nodes and tonsils in the throat.

If unchecked at these points, the infection spreads throughout the rest of the body through the blood (viremia) and decimates the number of white blood cells in the bloodstream, as a consequence throwing open the doors to secondary infection.

Since Parvovirus grows only in cells that are actively replicating (multiplying in number), the gastro-intestinal tract (which has a large number of cells replicating each day) is the most common site for the disease to develop.

The virus multiplying in these cells kills

them, and as a result destroys the inner lining (mucosal surface) of the intestine.

When this occurs, the gastro-intestinal system has reduced ability to absorb nutrients, and also leaks fluids, electrolytes, and blood in the lumen of the gut. This is the basis for the resultant bloody diarrhoea seen by the trainer or owner.

Some infected greyhounds may show no evidence of disease, whilst others will develop clinical signs and rapidly die.

The first clinical signs seen are vomiting and diarrhoea.

Mildly affected greyhounds will recover in 1 to 2 days without treatment.

In more severe cases, the vomiting and diarrhoea are followed by depression, reluctance to eat, possible fever, and dehydration.

The younger the greyhound, the greater the chance that it will develop severe disease.

Some greyhounds may die within 24 hours of the first clinical signs.

Not all cases of bloody diarrhoea are caused by Parvovirus.

Diagnosis of this viral disease is supported by finding a low WBC count in the blood, but a definitive diagnosis is made by either finding the viral antigen in faeces, or by measuring a high titer to the virus in the blood, or an increasing antibody titer to the virus in blood taken at the time of the disease and compared with that taken in the recovery stages.

Treatment is similar to any viral disease, with supportive care that includes fluids and electrolyte replacement, broad-spectrum antibiotics, and anti-vomiting medications if persistent vomiting occurs.

Transfusion with plasma or whole blood may also be needed in severe cases.

Also, use of plasma or serum from an immune greyhound with a high antibody titer may be of benefit, especially in pups or young dogs.

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