



Testing your Greyhound or Greyhound mix for exposure to tick-borne diseases may be the most important decision you can make for your pet's health. The testing offered by Greyhound Pets, Inc. (GPI), is one of the most considered and least-expensive options you have. Licensed veterinarians and veterinary techs or other medical professionals will conduct the blood draw. A nationally recognized laboratory will analyze the blood and report the findings. Test results vary, but we have found that a significant number of the dogs we test have positive exposure to one or more tick-borne diseases.

So what's that mean? It means you will know whether or not your pet has been exposed and, if so, to which diseases and to what degree. We will give you suggestions so you and your vet can decide what treatment is necessary, if any.

Tick-borne diseases are caused by microscopic infectious agents generated through the unborn puppy's mother, or tick bites after birth. Greyhounds may have been exposed to more than one disease that can affect their immunity. Simply carrying the diseases can lead to more serious illnesses.

Why do we test? Some Greyhounds have not been exposed to a tick-borne disease. Or they may have been exposed but not become sickened. But many Greyhounds do not have symptoms until they become very ill, just like humans. That's why we recommend testing with a tick panel to determine the status of each Greyhound. You will know, one way or another, and you and your vet can follow-up appropriately.

Because Greyhounds often have lived in more than one geographical area or part of the world, we have specific guidelines for different groups of dogs, as shown on the following page. The recommendations have been developed based on data developed by nationally recognized tick-borne disease authority Dr. Cynthia Holland of Protatek Reference Laboratory.

GPI is able to offer low-cost tick testing because we charge only a small additional fee above the actual lab fees to help defray our shipping costs. Because GPI volunteers draw the blood and do the paperwork and shipping ourselves, we can eliminate the normal processing fees.

GPI Tick-Borne Disease Testing Chart

	<i>US Ex-Racing Greyhounds</i>	<i>Midwest Greyhound Mixes</i>	<i>Irish Ex-Racing Greyhounds</i>	<i>South Korean Greyhound Mixes</i>	<i>US Ex-Racing Greyhounds Who Spent Time in the Southwest</i>
Babesia canis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ehrlichia canis	✓	✓		✓	✓
Rickettsia rickettsii (Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever)	✓	✓			✓
Borrelia burgdorferi (Lyme disease)	✓	✓	✓		✓
Coccidiomycosis (Valley Fever)					✓
Anaplasma phagocytophilum			✓	✓	
Bartonella			✓		
Babesia gibsoni				✓	

The knowledge you gain from this tick panel will serve you and your veterinarian as a guide to whether further testing or treatment will be necessary.

Sincerely,



Debora Wallingford, DVM

Volunteer
Greyhound Pets, Inc.