

A Trainer's Guide to Medication Control in Greyhounds

1 Integrity

Under the GBGB Rules of Racing, it is the **sole responsibility of the trainer** to ensure that a greyhound presented to race or trial has not been given any substance which might affect its normal performance. It is also the responsibility of the trainer to make sure that all kennel staff are properly briefed about the safe storage and use of medicines. Spent medication must be disposed of in approved containers and not in domestic or commercial waste.

A breach of The Rules occurs whenever a substance is detected in, or has been administered to a greyhound *whether or not the trainer/handler was aware of access to that substance*.

Trainers are expected to be fully familiar with the GBGB's Anti-doping and Medication Control pages on the GBGB website (see: <http://www.gbgb.org.uk/AntiDoping.aspx>) and as published in the Calendar

2 What about paddock security?

Although the paddock stewards will maintain security, it is the responsibility of the trainer/handler to ensure that greyhounds in their care are not given access to any prohibited medications or banned substances whilst at the stadium. The obvious exception to this is when a greyhound needs veterinary attention.

No medicines, including electrolytes, may be brought into the paddock area with the exception of products listed as Permitted Treatments *and only* provided these are easily identifiable as such and are presented in the manufacturer's original container.

3 Security at residential kennels

The security of the residential kennels is as important as that at the racetrack. Trainers should assess the local risks at the kennels. Examples of high risk might include inadequate control of access to dogs, exercise areas within reach of the public, incorrect handling and storage of drugs, poorly trained staff, and poorly maintained records of medicine administration.

Trainers must ensure that all food is sourced responsibly and has not in any way been contaminated with any substance that could result in a positive drug test. This includes coffee, tea and chocolate, meat that originates from farm livestock that could have been treated with a prohibited substance prior to slaughter, and bread products containing poppy seeds.

4 *What are prohibited substances?*

All doping agents, licensed veterinary medicines and substances used to treat greyhounds and feed contaminants are **prohibited** if detected in a greyhound at the time of competition. The only exception is the list of Permitted Substances (see section 5 below).

This ruling is based on the GBGB's philosophy that a greyhound must compete on its own merits without any unfair advantage that might result from the use of prohibited substances.

5 *Which treatments are permitted for racing or trialling?*

Permitted treatments are those which do not require a withdrawal period prior to racing or trialling. The main groups are:

- Oestrus suppressants
 - Delvosterone
 - Promone-E
 - Ovarid
 - Norethisterone (see separate GBGB Guidance Note¹)
- Routine preventive vaccines licensed for use in dogs
- Wormers and insecticides licensed for use in dogs.
- Those treatments described in the GBGB **List of Permitted Treatments**. This list contains only products that do not affect performance but can be used as simple first aid medicaments. **Permitted treatments must only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.**

The following treatments are on the permitted list

- Ferric chloride
- Hibitane
- Potassium permanganate
- Savlon
- Sudocrem
- Vaseline (i.e. petroleum jelly)
- Wound powders that do not contain antibiotics or insecticides

6 *Which medicines are banned?*

Banned medicines are those which are not licensed in the UK for use in dogs. This includes medicines sourced from the Internet without prescription, and prohibited substances with no accepted use in dogs and that are considered as "Doping" agents.

NB. Trainers should be aware that many supplements, herbal preparations and "natural" remedies contain banned substances. Veterinary advice should be sought before such products are administered to a racing dog. Trainers may also contact the GBGB Helpline (020 7421 3779)

¹ See: www.gbgb.org.uk/files/Vol%203%20No%206%20-%20Use%20of%20norethisterone%20as%20a%20season%20suppressant.pdf

7 Can I treat a greyhound during or prior to a race or trial?

It is essential that any racing greyhound requiring veterinary attention receives it promptly. It is against the law to deny a greyhound access to veterinary treatment if needed. Therefore treatment for an illness must take priority over racing or trialling.

Treatments from the Permitted List may be used. Massage preparations, liniments and other topical body rubs may also be used but ideally not within 24 hours of racing or trialling. Those containing non-steroidal anti-inflammatories must not be used within 7 days of racing.

Medicines used to treat specific conditions on a veterinary prescription must not be given within seven days prior to racing or trialling.

NB. Some veterinary medicines contain steroids which may persist, and even with short-acting preparations the GBGB recommends at least 28 days between the last dose and racing or trialling. In the case of some long-acting preparations, a withdrawal period of 6 months or more may be required.

Other than those on the Permitted Treatment List, no medicines of any sort may be administered during a meeting, unless prescribed and administered by a veterinary surgeon. This includes electrolytes. Greyhounds that have raced should only be offered clean, fresh water whilst they are at a stadium unless electrolytes are dispensed and administered under the guidance of the track veterinarian if in his/her opinion their use is warranted.

Greyhounds that are given any treatment other than those on the Permitted List prior to racing or trialling will not be allowed to run.

NB. All treatments given to a greyhound must be entered promptly and correctly in the Treatment Book.

8 What is the "Seven Day Rule"?

The GBGB does not publish a list of withdrawal periods since the safe use of medicines is set out clearly within the Rules of Racing under rule 217 which states;

"Any substances administered or applied to a Greyhound by a Trainer or Veterinary Surgeon shall be duly recorded in the Trainer's Greyhound Treatment Book, and that Greyhound must not Race or Trial for seven Days thereafter."

In a case where a short-acting medicine has been prescribed by a veterinary surgeon, a guide withdrawal period of seven days is advised. Some long-acting medicines may persist for far longer than seven days, and in the case of some steroidal and anabolic preparations sometimes for many months. Advice should be sought from the prescribing veterinary surgeon or the GBGB Helpline where any doubt exists.

9 The supply, storage and use of prescription medicines

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is responsible for the authorisation and control of the manufacture and marketing of animal medicines in the United Kingdom.

There are four groups of medicines defined for the purposes of controlling the supply of medicines for animal treatment. This will be printed on the labelling of all licensed products.

The groups are:

- POM-V (prescription only medicine - veterinarians): these drugs may **only** be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon and supplied by a veterinary surgeon or a pharmacist against a veterinary surgeon's prescription;
- POM-VPS (prescription only medicine - veterinary surgeons, pharmacists and Suitably Qualified Persons (SQP)): prescribed **only** by a veterinary surgeon, a pharmacist or a SQP and supplied by these professionals;
- NFA-VPS (non-food animal - veterinary surgeons, pharmacists and SQPs): no prescription required - supplied by a veterinary surgeon, a pharmacist or a SQP;
- AVM-GSL (authorised veterinary medicine - general sales list): no prescription required - can be supplied by any retailer.

All POM (prescription only medicine) products require a prescription from a veterinary surgeon and must be individually labelled. Only veterinarians have the authority to prescribe other medicines not specifically licensed for use in dogs, but on a case-by-case basis only.

Trainers must be aware that regardless of the category, **all medicines must be supplied from within the UK**. The purchase and holding of medicines bought from outside the UK is illegal, including those purchased via the Internet. The VMD have the power to seize unauthorised medicines without compensation. Repeat offences may result in prosecution.

All medicines must be stored and used responsibly, which means in a locked cabinet and **their use always recorded in the GBGB Treatment Book**. If your veterinary surgeon administers a medicine, then this needs to be recorded as well. Medicines must not be passed to other people for use on their own animals, and trainers should only keep in stock what is needed for immediate use.

For more information, contact your veterinary surgeon, local track veterinary surgeon or the VMD (www.vmd.gov.uk).

10 What is random testing?

The GBGB Sampling Stewards and Stipendiary Stewards may visit the stadium for any race or trial meeting. They will select a number of greyhounds at random for sampling. Sampling is normally via a urine specimen taken just before that greyhound's race or trial. Post-race sampling may also take place.

If a urine sample cannot be obtained within a reasonable period of time, then a blood sample shall be taken by a veterinary surgeon.

Local stewards may request a sample from any greyhound without the need for a local inquiry.

Both the sampling official and the trainer/handler must wear disposable gloves when collecting a sample. This is to prevent accidental contamination of the sample which may result in disciplinary action being taken against the trainer under the strict liability principle of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

NB. Refusal to allow a sample to be collected or a lack of cooperation is a breach of the Rules of Racing.

11 What happens after the sample has been collected?

Samples are submitted anonymously to the GBGB appointed forensic laboratory for analysis. A negative result will be advised within 5 working days of receipt by the laboratory of the sample.

In the event of a positive result, confirmation takes up to 28 days from the date of the race. A report will then be sent directly from the forensic laboratory to the Director of Regulation.

If the case is confirmed as a positive, the trainer and relevant racing manager will be advised and informed of any resulting inquiry. GBGB will provide guidance about the procedures and options if a trainer is required to attend a hearing of the GBGB Disciplinary Committee.

In the case of the sudden death of a greyhound at a racetrack, samples will be submitted for forensic analysis in accordance with the Rules of Racing. Details of this protocol are published in the GBGB Resource Folder available in the paddock to assist the track veterinarian.

12 Elective testing

To assist trainers in complying with the Rules of Racing, the GBGB offers trainers the option of an elective test for a number of named substances.

A trainer may elect to test a greyhound which they have recently acquired if they suspect that it may have been treated with a prohibited substance likely to persist in its system for some time. It must be recognised that the Rules of Racing impose strict liability and trainers are responsible for ensuring that all greyhounds in their care are free from prohibited substances prior to being entered or participating in a trial or race.

The following substances can be tested on request:

- Boldenone
- Fluoxymesterone
- Nandrolone (e.g. Laurabolin)
- Trenbolone
- Methyltestosterone (e.g. Orandrone)
- Stanozolol (e.g. Winstrol)
- Norgesterol
- Ethisterone
- Ethylestrenol (e.g. Nandoral)
- Progesterone (male greyhounds only)
- Methylprednisolone (an anti-inflammatory glucocorticoid)

The results and cost of the Elective Test relate only to a targeted steroid screening analysis for the above named steroids and apply only to the single sample received.

If there are other substances present these will NOT be reported.

The necessary sample kit will be provided by GBGB to the trainer. Payment must be made in full to GBGB by cheque or credit/debit card prior to the sample kit being dispatched to the trainer.

The trainer will be provided with a Certificate of Analysis directly from the GBGB approved laboratory by first class post, normally within 14 days of receipt of the sample at the lab.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of this Elective Test option should contact the Registry Department at the GBGB on 020 78220926 .

13 Why does a sample have to be provided at the Point of Registration?

As part of the GBGB policy on Doping and Medication control, a urine sample is taken at the time a greyhound is first registered. This sample will be stored securely and anonymously for six months, after which time it will be destroyed.

Having a sample stored at the forensic laboratory offers a degree of security for the owner/trainer and should a positive sample occur during routine sampling within the first six months of ownership, the stored sample will be tested. The results of the two samples can then be compared, and may be considered as part of the evidence in any resulting inquiry.