

FINNISH KENNEL CLUB (SKL-FKK ry) ANTIDOPING REGULATION

Approved by the Board on 27.11.2005. Valid as from 01.01.2007

1 § Definitions

In this Regulation:

1) *affecting a dog's performance* refers to measures to improve, reduce, or maintain a dog's performance by drugs and substances or other artificial measures that stimulate, excite, tranquilize, strengthen, weaken, anesthetize, and remove pain and inflammatory symptoms. Treating a dog's hair and nose so that the colour or hair quality changes is also considered affecting a dog's performance;

2) *person in charge of a dog* refers to a dog's owner or keeper on the basis of agreement. If these are minor, the person in charge is the owner's or keeper's guardian;

3) *dog event* refers to an event approved by the Finnish Kennel Club, or an event in which a dog's properties or breeding value is assessed and the result of the assessment is recorded in the Finnish Kennel Club data base;

4) *doping control officer* refers to a test functionary in charge, a chief judge or responsible judge, and in shows, a person appointed by the Finnish Kennel Club Board or a body appointed by it in advance, who is in charge of doping control;

5 a) *statutory sample* refers to a sample taken by a veterinary on the basis of the Act on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;

b) *random sample* refers to a doping sample randomly targeted;

c) *sample defined on the basis of success* refers to a sample determined by the Finnish Kennel Club Board or a body appointed by it in advance, based on a dog's placing or success;

d) *sample defined on the basis of exceptional performance or other well-based suspicion* refers to a doping sample taken of an individual dog in an individual case on the basis of well-based suspicion.

2 § Affecting a dog's performance

According to the Act on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, artificially improving, reducing, or maintaining an animal's performance by drugs or other similar substances or preparations is prohibited. Treating a dog's fur and nose with colouring agents and treating its fur with substances that affect the quality of hair or the shape of fur is prohibited.

It is not allowable to affect or try to affect a dog's performance before or during a dog event by applying any chemical substance, drug or treatment.

It is only allowable to use drugs officially approved in Finland for dog medication for the treatment and prevention of a dog's illness. No drug residues not related to the organism are allowed in the blood, urine, hair or other samples taken of a dog during a dog event (zero tolerance). Where drug residues are found, it does not matter whether they had any effect on the dog's performance. Hence any health care measures should be taken well before the date of the dog event. The significance of any drug residues discovered in anti doping tests is considered case by case by the Animal competition anti doping team appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

In case of a character test or performance in show, the continuous medication necessary for a dog's normal life prescribed by a veterinary on the basis of a written diagnosis is not deemed a forbidden drug, if the owner has declared the medication on the entry form for the show or character test. The person in charge of the dog shall also provide the Finnish Kennel Club with written information on any illness diagnosed by a veterinary and the medication before a dog event referred to in this paragraph. Any other medication is deemed prohibited also in shows and character tests.

The person in charge of a dog shall at request give an account of the drugs and natural medicines the dog has received.

Use of hormones regulating the adrenal cortex (corticoids and corticotrophins), non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) and respiratory drugs is prohibited for 14 days (336 hours) before a dog event. Punctures and injections of joints, bursae and tendon sheaths are prohibited 14 days before a dog event. The above washout periods are minimum times.

The following drugs and treatments are entirely prohibited:

- anabolic steroids
- growth hormones
- chemical or surgical measures to remove tactile sense permanently
- blood transfusions or other artificial efforts to affect a healthy dog's performance by increasing red corpuscles, e.g. by using erythropoietin hormone
- implants containing drugs
- radioactive implants.

The person in charge of a dog is always responsible for the dog's fitness to compete, and must observe all valid regulations and washout periods after each treatment.

The use of prohibited drugs in animal events is controlled by the Animal competition anti doping team which gives a statement of suspected violation of the anti doping regulation. The Finnish Kennel Club decides on the sanctions. The Finnish Kennel Club and local organizers of an event are in charge of taking the samples. The samples are examined by a laboratory approved by international sports associations. The samples are taken and processed and the participants' legal protection is secured equally in all dog events arranged in Finland.

3 § Basis for taking doping samples

3.1 Statutory doping control

The veterinary performing control according to the Act on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is entitled to take statutory samples, if there is reason to suspect that a prohibited substance, product or measure referred to in the Act has been applied in a dog event.

3.2 Random and performance-based doping control

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or a body it appoints annually defines the dog events in which doping samples are taken randomly or based on the placing or success of the dogs. The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or a body it appoints also defines the number of samples to be taken.

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or a body it appoints assigns for each dog event a doping control officer, whose tasks include those referred to in this regulation.

The samples are taken by a veterinary appointed for the dog event or another veterinary appointed for doping control by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or a body it appoints.

3.3 Doping control on the basis of exceptional performance or other well-based suspicion

The doping control officer of a dog event can propose for the veterinary appointed for a dog event or for another veterinary appointed by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or a body it has appointed for doping control that a sample be taken of an individual dog on the basis of exceptional performance or other well-based suspicion.

4 § Procedure of taking doping samples

The person in charge of a dog or an authorized person or a person in charge of a dog in an event who is no less than 15 years of age, is liable to take the dog to examination by veterinary or sample taker as soon as the doping control officer of the dog event announces sample taking.

The person in charge of a dog or an authorized person or a person in charge of a dog in an event is liable to assist in sample taking. When necessary, the doping control officer in a dog event shall hear the person in charge of the dog, and his/her statement shall be appended with the sample-taking documents. Refusal to submit to sample-taking is deemed admission of applying a forbidden substance or method.

The use of substances forbidden by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club can be controlled and samples can be taken also outside dog events. The person in charge of a dog or an authorized person or a person in charge of a dog in an event is liable to submit the dog to examinations whenever the Board so requires.

5 § Sanctions

Paragraph 9 of the Rules of the Finnish Kennel Club defines the sanctions to the person in charge of a dog who violates the doping regulation.

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club can, after hearing the Animal competition anti doping team, send an issue of violation of the doping regulation to be resolved by the discipline board.

After a positive sample, a dog is immediately suspended for a period decided by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club.

6 § The costs of taking and examining samples

The Finnish Kennel Club is in charge of the costs of sample taking and examination under item 3.2, and the event organizer under item 3.3 when a sample is negative or when a dog was allowed to participate according to this regulation. If a sample is positive and a dog was not allowed to participate according to this regulation, the person in charge of the dog pays the costs.

7 § Supplementary instructions

This regulation is supplemented by instructions given separately by the Finnish Kennel Club on dog medication and treatment, and on taking and examining doping samples.