

Anti doping regulation

Approved by the Board 27.5.2012

Valid as from 1.1.2013



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 or a person with legal capacity authorized by the 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 person appointed by the Finnish Kennel Club Board or a body appointed by it in advance, who is in charge of doping control;
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 - 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 § Confidentiality

The Finnish Kennel Club's general rule of incompetence is applied to doping control officers and assistants in sample taking. The measures and events connected with doping control fall under confidentiality.

3 § 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.

The usual coat care, washing and trimming products are, however, allowed. Use of these products must not seek to influence the dog's performance, the quality of the hair, the color, or the form of the coat. Use of these products must also not cause any harm to the health and well-being of the dogs.

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.

Drug residues not related to the organism are not allowed in the blood, urine, hair or other samples taken of a dog during a dog event (zero tolerance). Drugs approved in Finnish legislation for animals for the treatment and prevention of a dog's illness are allowed, but there are washout periods. The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club can, after hearing the Animal competition anti-doping team, also set a limit to specific drugs. A finding below the limit may go unsanctioned. 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 also 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 Finnish Animal competition anti-doping team.

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club may, after consulting the Animal competition antidoping team, grant an exceptional permit that allows the dog for participating dog events even when under treatment for a particular disease. Conditions for granting an exceptional permit are:

- Granting of an exceptional permit promotes dog welfare and health as well as general and breed-specific breeding goals.
- A sick dog, whose participation in dog events under medication is allowed with an exceptional permit, is permanently culled from breeding (transferred to the EJ registry).
- The exceptional permit affects a significant part of the breed population.
- Granting of an exceptional permit does not involve a significant risk of improving dog's performance with a drug or substance.
- Health and performance of the dog are normal under medication. For the medication under an exceptional permit, there is a clearly defined level or reference value, which ensures the normal performance of the dog.
- Before granting an exceptional permit the dog's health status is checked by a veterinarian, who ensures that the illness or the medication does not preclude participation in the dog event. A veterinarian controls regularly the dog's health and proper administration of the medication. A valid certificate of veterinary examination and medication must be kept in when participating dog events. Veterinary certificate must not be more than one (1) year old. The necessary certificates and control measures are defined disease- and drug-specifically in the Antidoping regulation.

The person in charge of a dog shall at request give an account of the drugs, herbal preparations, traditional herbal preparations, other drugs under selling licence, and homeopathic and anthroposophic preparations the dog has received.

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
- dyeing the hair, skin, and nose, and changing the hair quality and shape with chemical substances.

A veterinary has the right to apply blood transfusion and anabolic steroids, if the treatment of a dog's illness so requires, paying attention to the washout periods.

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.

4 § Basis for taking doping samples

4.1 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.

4.2. 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 person appointed for doping control by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or a body it appoints.

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

The chief judge in a dog event or the chief judge in charge or a show judge can propose for the veterinary appointed for a dog event or for another person appointed for doping control by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or by a body of its appointment that a sample be taken of an individual dog on the basis of exceptional performance or other well-based suspicion.

5 § 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.

By decision of the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club, the use of substances forbidden can be controlled and samples can be taken of dogs in a dog event, during or after the dog event. 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 person stated under 4.3 so requires.

6 § Sanctions

A dog that receives a positive doping result is suspended immediately after the laboratory has informed of the result. The dog remains suspended until the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club has processed the matter after receiving an expert statement from the Animal competition anti-doping team.

If the Board considers a violation to have occurred, the Board cancels the dog's result/prize. The prize is reassigned to the next dog entitled to it. The Board decides on the dog's suspension from shows, tests, and/or trials, and the length of the suspension definitely, processes and decides the matter concerning the persons and, when necessary, informs of such a matter further to the discipline board.

7 § The costs of taking and examining samples

The Finnish Kennel Club is in charge of the costs of sample taking and examination under items 4.2 and 4.3 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.

8 § Supplementary instructions

The anti-doping regulation of the Finnish Kennel Club is supplemented by instructions validated by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club on taking and examining doping samples, and by other supplementary instructions of the Board.

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 person appointed for doping control by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or a body it appoints.