



The Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Rules

Approved by the Finnish Kennel Club Council on 28 May 2024. Valid from 1 January 2025.

The aim of anti-doping activities is to promote animal welfare, fair competition, equality and access to accurate information to support breeding.

According to the Animal Welfare Act, dog events must not unnecessarily endanger the welfare of animals. A dog must not be given a medicine or similar substance or be subjected to a method designed to artificially influence its performance or behaviour in a trial, competition or show.

Consideration of the dog's well-being is of paramount importance in all dog-related hobbies. Any form of mistreatment of the dog, exposure to dangerous conditions, participation or presence of a sick dog at a dog event is prohibited.

The use of medicinal products necessary for the treatment and prevention of the dog's disease is permitted, but there are withdrawal periods for medicinal products during which participation in dog events is not permitted. The dog should be given sufficient time to recover from an illness.

The purpose of doping control is to prevent affecting performance using medications, to protect the dog from stress when it's ill and to guarantee sufficient recovery time for the dog. The Anti-Doping Rules provide instructions on what is defined as doping in the Finnish Kennel Club's dog events and how doping is monitored.

By decision of the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club, the use of medicinal products and prohibited substances may be monitored and samples taken from all dogs participating in an event or from dogs that have performed in a dog event and are not included in the trial, competition, test or show (so-called zero dogs). The Finnish Kennel Club also carries out monitoring of drugs during the withdrawal period through self-monitoring.

1 General

The Finnish Kennel Club is responsible for the collection and examination of doping samples.

The Finnish Kennel Club is responsible for the costs of sample collection and examining the sample if the sample is negative. The person responsible for the dog will bear the costs if the sample is positive (excluding medications for which an exemption has been sought and granted for the dog).

All matters, measures and events related to the Finnish Kennel Club's doping control are subject to confidentiality. The Finnish Kennel Club only discloses information about the concentrations of doping samples to the Animal Competition Anti-Doping Team. The Finnish Kennel Club will provide the person responsible for the dog and the owner of the dog with the laboratory analysis of the positive sample and information about the substance found.



2 Definitions

Under this Rule:

1. *Influencing a dog's performance* refers to all measures aimed at altering the dog's performance from what it is naturally, by means of medications and/or substances and/or other medical measures.
2. *The person responsible for the dog* refers to the owner of the dog, the contractual keeper and/or another person responsible for the dog at the event.
3. *A dog event* refers to all events under the Finnish Kennel Club's control, such as trials, competitions, shows, inspections, tests and other events that are organised according to the Finnish Kennel Club's rules and guidelines, and for which a notification is made to the Finnish Kennel Club.
4. *Doping control officer* refers to a person in charge of doping control appointed in advance by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or another designated entity.
5.
 - a) *Random sample* refers to a doping sample that is random in terms of targeting;
 - b) *Success-based sample* refers to a doping sample pre-determined by the Finnish Kennel Club's Board or another designated entity, based on the dog's ranking or success;
 - c) *Sample based on an abnormal performance or other justified suspicion* refers to a doping sample taken from an individual dog on the basis of an abnormal performance or justified suspicion.
 - d) *Legally based sample* refers to a sample taken from a dog by a veterinarian on the basis of the Animal Welfare Act.

3 Grounds for doping control

3.1 Random and success-based doping control

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club or another party designated by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club shall determine in advance the dog events in which random doping tests or doping tests based on the dogs' ranking or success are taken.

3.2 Doping control based on abnormal performance or other justified suspicion

The chief judge of a dog event, the judge in charge, the show judge or the veterinarian appointed for the dog event may propose to the doping control officer that a doping test be taken from an individual dog if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a prohibited drug, product or medical procedure has been used on the dog on the basis of an abnormal performance or other strong suspicion.

3.3 Legally based doping control



A veterinarian carrying out supervision pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act has the right to take samples on a legal basis if there is reason to suspect that a prohibited substance, product or medical procedure referred to in the Animal Welfare Act has been used on a dog participating in a dog event.

4 Influencing a dog's performance

A dog's performance before or during a dog event must not be altered or attempted to be altered from its natural state through the use of medications and/or substances, and/or other medical procedures.

Artificially increasing, reducing or maintaining the dog's performance with medicines or other similar substances or products or medical procedures is prohibited.

By registering a dog for a dog event, the person responsible for the dog is committed to complying with the Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Rules and Anti-Doping Guidelines. The person responsible of a dog is always responsible for the dog's eligibility to compete and its right to participate in the event. Blood or urine samples taken from dogs must not contain any drugs or drug residues during the dog event (zero tolerance). With regard to drug residues, it does not matter whether they may have had an impact on the dog's performance.

Doping samples taken from dogs and found to be positive are processed by the Animal Competition Anti-Doping Team on a case-by-case basis.

The Animal Competition Anti-Doping Team issues a statement to the Finnish Kennel Club on a suspected anti-doping rule violation. The Finnish Kennel Club decides on the sanctions to be imposed in accordance with the rules of the Finnish Kennel Club.

5 Medicating a dog and medication withdrawal periods

The dog must be given the medication it needs to treat or prevent the disease. The person responsible for the dog must take into account the withdrawal periods set for medicines. The withdrawal period for medication is calculated from the last day of administration of the medication, except for implants, for which the withdrawal period is calculated from the date of their insertion.

Participation in dog events with a sick dog or a dog that is not in good health as defined in the Animal Welfare Act or its decrees is prohibited. The dog should be given sufficient time to recover from the illness. Regardless of the withdrawal period, the dog is not entitled to participate in the dog event until the dog has recovered, even if recovery takes longer than the prescribed withdrawal period for medication. Adherence to the recommended withdrawal period does not always guarantee that the zero tolerance requirement for dog events will be met.

No substance used on a dog shall cause harm to the dog's health and/or well-being.

6 Adding a new medicinal substance to the exemption procedure

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club may grant an exemption for certain medicinal substances, which allows the dog to participate in events under the medication required for the treatment of a certain disease.



The conditions for granting an exemption for a specific medicinal substance are:

- The use of a certain drug for a specific disease affects a significant proportion of the dog population.
- The dog's health and performance are normal when on medication.
- There is a clearly defined medication level or reference value for medication that can be approved with an exemption permit, which maintains the dog's normal performance.
- A dog whose participation in dog events under medication is allowed with an exemption permit is subject to a permanent breeding ban.

Notwithstanding the exemption, participation in dog events with a sick dog or a dog whose well-being is not as defined in the Animal Welfare Act or its decrees is prohibited.

7 Consequences

Based on the information obtained from the laboratory, the Finnish Kennel Club imposes a temporary ban on the participation of a dog with a positive doping test result. The dog's temporary ban on participation continues until the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club has dealt with the matter and imposed any additional sanctions.

The severity of the violation determines whether it is a zero tolerance violation, a medication violation or an anti-doping rule violation. When determining the degree of severity, we do not take a stand on how the drug or other substance has entered the dog's body.

A zero tolerance violation occurs when a residue of a drug is found in the doping sample, a report provided by the person responsible for the dog on the medication administered to the dog can explain the finding, documentation written by the veterinarian can be found on prescription medication and the person responsible for the dog has complied with the recommended withdrawal periods. In addition, the concentration of the finding is so low that it is unlikely to have had an impact on the dog's performance.

A medical violation occurs when a residue of a medicinal substance is found in a dog's sample and it can be suspected that the dog has been treated in violation of the rules on withdrawal period and medication. The residual concentration found in the medication violation is so low that it is unlikely to have had an impact on the dog's performance.

An anti-doping rule violation occurs when a dog has been treated contrary to the regulations, or a significant concentration of a drug is found in the dog and it can be suspected that the dog's performance has been influenced or attempted to be influenced.

If the person responsible for the dog refuses to take the sample or otherwise acts in a way that practically prevents the collection of the sample within the time limit, this is considered an anti-doping rule violation.

If the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club determines that a violation has occurred, any result and/or prize received by the dog will be invalidated. In addition, the Board decides on the dog's exclusion from participating and its duration, processes and decides on the matter with regard to the persons involved and, if necessary, forwards the matter concerning the persons to the Finnish Kennel Club's Ethical Committee.



8 Other Guidelines

The Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Rules are supplemented by the Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Guidelines and other rules and guidelines issued by the Finnish Kennel Club.

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club may issue special regulations concerning doping control for particularly compelling reasons.

9 Complaints and disputes

The decision of the Finnish Kennel Club can be objected to by filing an action in the District Court within three months of the decision being made.

10 Compelling reasons

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club has the right to deviate from this rule for particularly compelling reasons, to issue special provisions concerning the rule and to approve other exceptional measures with regard to this rule.