



The Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Guidelines

Approved by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club on 22 November 2024. Valid from 1 January 2025.

1. General

The Anti-Doping Guidelines define how doping control is carried out in dog events under the control of the Finnish Kennel Club and the exemption policy related to the guidelines.

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 dog must receive the necessary treatment and medication for the treatment and prevention of a disease, but medicines have withdrawal periods, and during the withdrawal period of a medicine, the dog is not permitted to participate in dog events organised by the Finnish Kennel Club. The dog should be given sufficient time to recover from the illness.

Any substance given to a dog must not cause harm to the dog's health and/or well-being.

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.

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.

2. Person responsible for the dog

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.

Duties of the person responsible for the dog:

- they must behave appropriately in the sample collection situation and any disturbance or interference and/or refusal of sample collection is considered an admission of the use of a prohibited substance and/or method (positive sample).

- they must assist with the sample collection and follow the instructions given to them by the doping control officer.
- they shall select the sample collection kit to be used for the sample collection and check that the seals on the kit are intact.
- they must monitor the processing of the sample, the completion of the sample form and the packaging of the samples until they are sealed.
- they must provide correct and up-to-date information on the sample collection form, which they confirm with their signature. By doing so, they also confirm that they have monitored the sample collection and its handling until the sealing of the sample collection kit.

Failure to sign the sample collection form does not prevent the examination of the doping sample or any related follow-up measures.

The person responsible for the dog has the right to ask the doping control officer to add their statement to the sample collection documents. The statement must be given to the doping control officer during the sample collection situation.

3. Duties of the doping control officer

The doping control officer in charge of the sample collection must clarify the rights and obligations of the person responsible for the dog.

The doping control officer is responsible for checking the dog's identification marking and ensuring that the correct dog is sampled. The doping control officer or their assistant will monitor and supervise the dog assigned for testing without interruption until a sufficient amount of urine has been collected from the dog for the sample.

The doping control officer is responsible for the safekeeping of the temporarily sealed sample. The doping control officer is responsible for the final sealed sample and the related sample collection form, as well as any statement issued by the person responsible for the dog, until the samples are mailed.

4. Sample collection point

The event organiser must be prepared to designate suitable facilities for doping control at the request of the doping control officer. The premises must be approved by the doping control officer as well as be clean, spacious and secluded. The space can be located either indoors or outdoors if the weather permits (e.g. a tent in summer). The sample collection room must have a table and the required number of chairs.

At the request of the doping control officer, the event organiser shall arrange for a sufficient number of persons familiar with the handling of dogs to assist in the doping test collection. The doping control officer will give the assistant instructions that must be followed.

In the sample collection room or location, the use of nicotine products, consumption of alcoholic or caffeine-containing beverages, handling of caffeine-containing food products, and medicinal products are prohibited.

4.1 The event organiser's obligation to provide information

The trial application must include the event's address or the address details of the event's central location. When asked by the doping control officer, the chief judge of the dog event and the responsible steward must provide the exact address of the event.

5. Sample collection

Samples may be taken from dogs participating in the dog event during the event. A blood test may be taken instead of a urine sample.

The sample collection situation starts when the person responsible for the dog is notified of the sample collection. The sample collection situation ends when the samples are sealed and the sample collection form is signed, or when the doping control officer notifies that the sample collection has been suspended. The sample collection for a dog can last a maximum of (4) hours. The doping control officer determines the time and duration of the dog's possible break during the sample collection and instructs the person responsible for the dog in this regard.

The dog should be under the constant supervision of the doping control officer or designated assistant until a sufficient amount of urine has been collected. The doping control officer may only provide the dog with clean water during the sample collection. The person responsible for the dog may on their own responsibility also give the dog other drinks (e.g. flavoured water) and/or food.

If the person responsible for the dog refuses to give the sample or otherwise acts in a manner that could prevent the collection of the sample within the time limit, this is considered an anti-doping rule violation. The person responsible for the dog cannot interrupt the sample collection process without it being considered an admission of the use of a prohibited substance and/or method (positive sample).

The judge or chief judge must notify the veterinarian or doping control officer of the event if they suspect that the dog is participating in the event in violation of the Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Rules or Anti-Doping Guidelines.

5.1 Processing of samples and further procedures

The doping control officer is responsible for storing and forwarding samples in accordance with the instructions issued by the Finnish Kennel Club.

Samples taken from dogs are examined by an accredited laboratory that analyses animal doping samples. The laboratory will only provide the test results to the Finnish Kennel Club.

If, based on the laboratory examination, a drug and/or other substances have been found in the dog's sample, a written response is requested from the person responsible for the dog and/or the dog's owner. The response must be given within two weeks (14 days) of the request. The response will be taken into account in the processing of the matter, but failure to provide a response does not prevent the processing of the matter.

Doping samples taken from dogs that have been found to be positive and the response received from the person responsible for the dog and/or the dog's owner are sent to the Animal Competition Anti-Doping Team, which will handle the matter on a case-by-case basis. The Animal Competition Anti-Doping Team shall issue a statement to the Finnish Kennel Club on a suspected violation of the Anti-Doping Rules and/or Guidelines. The Finnish Kennel Club decides on the sanctions to be imposed in accordance with the rules of the Finnish Kennel Club.

If necessary, the results of positive doping tests are reported to the authority responsible for animal welfare.

6. Exclusion from participation

The Finnish Kennel Club imposes a participation exclusion on a dog with a positive doping test result, and/or a dog that participated in an event during a known withdrawal period. The duration of the exclusion is determined by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club. The exclusion from participation for dogs applies to all events and representation tasks under the control of the Finnish Kennel Club.

The dog's exclusion from participation is visible in the Finnish Kennel Club's breeding information system for the duration of its validity.

7. Sample collection and examination costs

The Finnish Kennel Club is responsible for the costs of sample collection and examinations when the dog's sample is negative and participation is permitted in accordance with the Anti-Doping Rules and these guidelines.

If the sample is positive and the dog has therefore not been entitled to participate, the person responsible for the dog is responsible for the costs of examining the sample.

8. Exemptions granted to dogs

Dog owners can apply to the Finnish Kennel Club for an exemption for a dog requiring permanent medication for certain illnesses, provided the conditions defined in these guidelines are met, and the medication is used according to its indication.

If the conditions are met, the exemption is granted for an indefinite period. After the exemption has been granted, the dog can participate in the Finnish Kennel Club's official dog events. The exemption is free of charge.

In connection with the processing of the exemption application, it is recorded in the dog's register information that the dog cannot be used for breeding (breeding prohibition). The exemption granted and the reasoning are visible in the Finnish Kennel Club's breeding information system.

The exemption permit does not give the right to participate in dog events with a sick dog or a dog that is not healthy as defined in the Animal Welfare Act or the decrees issued on the basis of the Act.

8.1 Conditions for granting an exemption

The dog must have owner information in the Finnish Kennel Club's system.

The exemption application form is drug-specific and can only be used under the conditions specified in these guidelines. The application for an exemption (excluding an exemption concerning urinary incontinence medication) must be accompanied by the dog's original registration certificate or an identification marking certificate for dogs not registered with the Finnish Kennel Club.

The dog's owner(s) must submit a signed application for a drug-specific exemption to the Finnish Kennel Club, which includes a veterinary certificate on the dog's health. In order to control the dog's health, treatment and the correct level of medication, the dog's health examination should be repeated regularly and at intervals specified for each drug. Your vet may require more frequent controls depending on your dog's health.

Participation in dog events requires the dog to have a valid veterinary certificate confirming the control of its illness. The most recent medical record from the control visit or the discharge instructions for disease control, verified with the veterinarian's license number and date, are valid as a certificate.

The latest certificate of the control visit must be carried when participating in dog events.

After the exemption has been granted, the dog can participate in the official dog events of the Finnish Kennel Club.

The exemption does not need to be renewed.

9. The Finnish Kennel Club's guidelines on medicinal products and their withdrawal periods (Medication Guidelines)

The guidelines supplementing the Anti-Doping Rules approved by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club are published on the Finnish Kennel Club's website.

The Finnish Kennel Club's guidelines on medicinal products and their withdrawal periods (Medication Guidelines) are an indicative minimum withdrawal period list for various medicinal products used in the treatment of dogs. The withdrawal periods are not binding, but the veterinarian treating the dog can extend the withdrawal period if necessary on the basis of the dog's illness or treatment. If necessary, the list will be updated on the basis of scientific research results.

The Medication Guidelines also include a list of treatment forms and methods that the Finnish Kennel Club's Board has specified as treatment forms that affect the dog's performance in connection with doping control or otherwise.

The Finnish Kennel Club does not specify a withdrawal period for medicines that have not been registered for dogs.

10. Medication- and disease-specific requirements and observations for exemption

a) Thyroid hormone

- Indication: treatment of hypothyroidism.
- Hypothyroidism has been diagnosed on clear grounds, taking into account clinical symptoms, changes in thyroid hormone (T4) and releasing hormone (TSH) and response to medication.
- Based on the health examination, the dog's health and performance have returned to normal in terms of hypothyroidism, and the treatment balance has been reached before applying for an exemption.
- The dog has not been diagnosed with any other concomitant disease that would affect the treatment balance of hypothyroidism.
- Control at least every 12 months.

b) Ciclosporin

- Indication: skin diseases: atopy, SA or sebaceous adenitis, perianal fistulosis/anal furunculosis.
- Indication: eye diseases: pannus, chronic superficial keratitis, dry eye.
- The disease has been diagnosed on clear grounds, taking into account clinical symptoms, examination findings and response to treatment.
- Based on the health examination, the dog's health and performance have returned to normal with regard to the disease and the treatment balance has been reached.
- The dog has not been diagnosed with any other concomitant disease that would affect the treatment balance.
- Veterinary control at least every 6 months.

c) Phenylpropanolamine

- Indication: urinary leakage in sterilised dogs.
- The application must indicate that the dog has been sterilised.
- No "not for breeding" entry in the register book is required, and the register book does not need to be submitted to the Finnish Kennel Club with the application.
- Veterinary control at least every 12 months.

d) Oclacitinib

- Indication: atopic dermatitis and pruritus associated with allergic dermatitis.
- The disease has been diagnosed on clear grounds, taking into account clinical symptoms, examination findings and response to treatment.
- Based on the health examination, the dog's health and performance have returned to normal with regard to the disease and the treatment balance has been reached.
- The dog has not been diagnosed with any other concomitant disease that would affect the treatment balance.
- Veterinary control at least every 12 months.

e) Lokivetmab

- Indication: atopic dermatitis and pruritus associated with allergic dermatitis.
- The disease has been diagnosed on clear grounds, taking into account clinical symptoms, examination findings and response to treatment.
- Based on the health examination, the dog's health and performance have returned to normal with regard to the disease and the treatment balance has been reached.
- The dog has not been diagnosed with any other concomitant disease that would affect the treatment balance.
- Veterinary control at least every 12 months.

11. Compelling reasons

For particularly compelling reasons, the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club has the right to deviate from these guidelines, to issue special provisions concerning the guidelines and to approve other exceptional measures with regard to these guidelines.