

FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) (AISBL)

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International Guidelines about Dog Doping

Stipulations on shows, trials and competitions

- Participating dogs must not be injured or ill. Furthermore, they must not be affected in any forbidden way, i.e. they must not have received treatment that may illegally affect their appearance in a way that is not allowed, performance or reactions, or the way in which injuries or illnesses manifest themselves.
- Dogs whose coats, noses or skin have been treated with a substance that changes their colour or structure are prohibited from participating in shows.
- All dogs must be available for the examinations and tests that may be necessary in order to check for doping and other forbidden measures. The organiser is entitled to copy veterinarians' certificates.
- The person responsible for the dog is obliged to find out how treatment or other action taken may affect the dog's right to participate in a show, trial or competition.

Procedure when handling doping cases

General

All testing takes place by taking two samples, if possible identical; named A sample and B sample.

The results of analysis from the applicable laboratory are sent to the co-ordinator of the doping case appointed by the organization concerned.

In the cases where the laboratory has detected a forbidden or suspected forbidden substance in the A sample, the organization decides whether, and if so when, the B sample will be analysed.

Regulations on executing doping checks

General

- Doping checks can be carried out at or in conjunction with shows, trials or competitions.
- Doping checks shall be performed by testers authorised by the organization.

- Authorisation and identity card shall be shown if requested.
- The tester must be unbiased.
- A summons to testing may be made in writing. Receipt of the summons must be confirmed through the signature of the person responsible for the dog. The summons is to include an information leaflet containing references to the organization's regulations on the obligation to make the dog available for doping tests, as well as a description of the testing procedures and further processing of the case. Failure to come for testing must be reported to the doping co-ordinator of the organization immediately.
- The person responsible for the dog, or a representative of this person, is entitled to be present when the sample is taken.
- When taking blood and urine samples, a veterinarian must be available.
- When taking urine samples, the person responsible for the dog may assist under the tester's supervision. However, the person responsible for the dog **MUST** also wear protective gloves if he or she assists.

Order to perform doping tests

- The organization or a person authorised by the organization may order that a dog be tested. If deemed necessary, the veterinarian on duty can also decide on testing.

Qualifying period for certain treatments and measures

Certain treatments and measures are banned. For practical reasons, a dog may be allowed to take part in trials, competitions or shows after six months, provided that the treatment or measure cannot be assumed to have a remaining effect after this period of time. In the case of other treatments or measures, a qualifying period is applicable. This means that the dog may participate in trials, competitions or shows after the qualifying period. It should be noted that such qualifying periods do not guarantee that the animal's body is free of the substance concerned.

Exemption

Dogs that have been subject to measures may participate if the measure was justified for medical reasons and exemption for participation has been granted, or if the qualifying period for the measure has ended. The granting of exemption is principally an option in cases of lengthy treatment, and the decision taken is primarily based on animal protection reasons.

Exemption is granted by the relevant organization. Exemption must be applied for and granted before participation and can refer to shows, trials or competitions. Confirmation of exemption must be brought to the event and shown on request.

Forbidden methods

The actual effect of the use of a forbidden method is not relevant.

In trials, shows and competitions the following are also prohibited e.g.

- measures to relieve pain
- measures that affect the dog's general condition
- measures that affect the disease processes

In the case of shows, measures that alter the natural colour or structure of the skin, nose or coat are also prohibited.

The ban applies irrespective of the technique used and therefore also covers surgical and medicinal treatment as well as alternative forms of treatment. Examples of the latter are TNS (transcutaneous nerve stimulation), laser treatment, ultrasound, electricity, ionising radiation, acupuncture and chiropractic.

If a dog has received treatment with any of the above, the effect of the treatment must have completely disappeared for the dog to be allowed to participate in a trial, show or competition. However, at least seven days must always have passed since completion of the treatment.

Surgical interventions that change the appearance, performance and/or function of the dog may qualify for exemption in certain cases.

Blood doping is prohibited. All manipulation that may alter the validity of a doping test is also prohibited.

These recommendations were approved by the FCI General Committee in Vienna, July 2009.