

Medication Control

One of the main priorities of the Greyhound Board is to ensure the integrity of greyhound racing in Britain.

The welfare of the racing greyhound is paramount and no abuse of these animals will be tolerated. The use of any substance likely to affect the current or future health and welfare of a greyhound is strictly forbidden. It is an infringement of the Rules of Racing to use any substance to attempt to influence the performance of a greyhound and any breach of these rules will be met with severe penalties, including loss of license.

The Greyhound Board intends to regularly update trainers, vets and track management through published articles in the calendar, on our website at www.gbgb.org.uk, and through a series of 'road-shows' such as the very successful Q and A session held recently at Harlow Stadium. We will use whatever medium is available to provide clear instruction as to what acceptable practice is regarding the use of medication within the training establishment and racing arena.

The new Drug Control strategy classifies medication as belonging to one of 3 categories:

- Class 1 substances are those that should never be found in a greyhound, whether training or racing. This includes for example any human medication, narcotics, stimulants or tranquilizers.
- Class 2 exists to cover medication specifically for treating greyhounds, which whilst acceptable in training should never be present when the dog is presented to race. The Rules of Racing are not intended to discourage the correct prompt veterinary treatment of greyhounds, only that the greyhound is free of these substances at the time of racing.
- Class 3 includes substances classified as supplements and tonics that are perceived as "safe" by the trainer. These can nevertheless produce an inadvertent drug positive. Also in this class are other inadvertent positives from contamination of feed or poor hygiene within the training establishment. Trainers are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that all food and additives fed to greyhounds in their care are free from any substance that may affect their performance or could prejudice the well being of a greyhound. Meat should only be sourced from a reputable supplier and trainers must ask that they do not receive meat from animals which have been treated with drugs prior to slaughter.

Help and advice is available for trainers, owners and vets needing guidance on greyhound health. Either contact your local regulator or call the GBGB Veterinary Helpline on 020 7421 3799 (telephone answering machine service – messages will be relayed to a person appropriately qualified to answer regularly during GBGB office hours. For **emergency** advice please contact your local veterinary surgeon).