

# Guidelines for collection and analysis of doping samples



Approved by the Board of the Finnish Kennel Club on 21.11.2020.

Valid as of 1.1.2021.

*This document is a translation. In cases of doubt, the Finnish version will prevail.*

## 1 § Sample collection station

The organizer of an event must provide a clean, sufficiently large space, separated from other event activities, for sample collection. The space must be checked by a Doping Control Officer (DCO) appointed by the Finnish Kennel Club. The station may be indoors or outdoors. Near the station must be a sturdy writing pad and a place to keep samples and equipment. The venue should have facilities for washing hands.

The organizer of the event must reserve enough people with experience of dogs. They assist the person responsible for the dog when the dog is brought to the station and when the sample is collected. People are needed to observe the collection of samples during the whole procedure, even though the person responsible for the dog is the one that collects the sample into a container he has been given. The dog must not eat anything while being at the sample collection station. However, it is recommended that the dog is allowed water to drink (clean tap water or bottled water from a clean bowl). Sometime during sample collection, the dog can be allowed to have some rest in a car or a crate under the supervision of the DCO or an assistant. Sample collection can continue once the dog has rested for half an hour, for instance. Smoking or drinking coffee is not allowed at the sample collection station.

## 2 § Sample collection

The Finnish Kennel Club provides the DCO with necessary sample collection equipment. The DCO is responsible for always having enough sample collection equipment in storage. The organizer of the event must get a microchip reader for shows and trials for the purpose of checking identification markings.

### 2.1. Duties of a Doping Control Officer

The DCO or an assistant appointed by him must ensure that the correct dog comes in for sample collection. Identification marking of the dog selected for doping testing is checked to verify the dog's identity. The DCO or a functionary appointed by him continuously watches and observes a dog selected for testing until a sample has been collected. The DCO or an assistant appointed by him report to the veterinarian if it has been noticed that the dog has been treated, groomed or in some other way had a chance to get foreign substances in its body, or if an attempt has been made to manipulate sample collection.

The person responsible for the dog, a person authorized by him, or a person in charge of the dog at the event (hereinafter person responsible for the dog) must be present at all times during the sample collection process. Relevant rights and obligations must be explained to him by the DCO. The DCO explains to the person responsible for the dog the purpose of sample collection, the process as well as sealing equipment related to it. He must also clearly describe how the person responsible for the dog is required to observe the sample collection process, filling out the sample collection forms, and the placing of samples to specific envelopes for transport. The person responsible for the dog chooses a urine sample collection kit himself. The protective bag of the sample collection equipment is checked to confirm that the bag is intact and duly closed.

### 2.2. Sample collection equipment

Sample collection equipment, which is kept in a locked space:

- pre-packaged sample collection equipment for small and large dogs
- sealable containers
- clean paper sheets and envelopes for hair samples
- sharp scissors that are easy to clean
- antiseptic wipes
- cotton buds
- wooden spatulas
- blood collection tubes (for collection of serum)
- disposable gloves in sizes S, M, L
- talc-free disposable gloves 7, 8½ (for collection of hair and nose samples)
- yellow-striped shipping bags
- paper towels
- sample collection forms
- pens
- spirit-soluble marker
- separate shipment bags for urine/blood and hair samples

### **2.3. Urine and blood samples**

A urine sample is collected directly to the sample container. 4 hours is reserved for sample collection, counting from the time the dog has arrived at the doping control station. The DCO and his assistant must wear disposable gloves in order to avoid contamination (transferring foreign substances from hands into the sample) while collecting the sample. Should the amount of urine collected at once be insufficient, the sample obtained can be poured into a sample container, which is then temporarily sealed with a temporary sealing strip under the observation of the DCO and the person responsible for the dog. The name of the person responsible for the dog is written on the temporary sealing strip. The sample collection process continues to the same sample container until enough urine has been obtained. If no sample has been obtained four hours after the collection was started, the DCO may interrupt the sample collection process.

All collected urine samples are combined into one sample container (the temporarily sealed container is opened).

A urine sample is split into two different containers. The amount of sample A should be 50 ml, and the amount of sample B 20 ml. If enough urine is not obtained, about 10 ml of urine is poured into container B and the rest into container A. An amount as large as this is not to be expected when collecting samples of small dogs that weigh less than 5 kg. In these cases, 5 ml of urine is sufficient for sample B and the rest is poured into container A. Containers are closed by pressing the lid tightly to avoid spilling during transportation. The sealing ring of the container is slipped (from the top down) to the depth of two barbs to join the lid and the bottle so that the lid cannot be opened unnoticed.

There are two sealing labels carrying the same number, one of which is marked for sample A and the other one for sample B. The sealing label is placed horizontally on the side of the container so that it covers the sealing ring.

Codes of the sealing labels are written on the form. The complete series of numbers must be written, zeros in the beginning or in the end may not be left out. Code numbers are also written on blood tubes and urine containers by using a spirit-soluble marker. Each sealed bottle is placed in individual Minigrip bags.

Blood samples are taken only in special cases, for instance when suspecting that the dog has been given alcohol. The spot from where the blood is drawn is cleaned with an antiseptic towel provided in the kit, if necessary. A veterinarian draws blood samples to two regular-sized blood tubes by drawing blood via an injection needle directly to the tubes. No vacuum is needed. Depending on the dog's size, the amount of blood collected should be about 10 ml. Blood tubes are closed tightly and placed in sealable tubes. Analysis is performed on serum.

## **2.4. Hair and nose samples**

Hair samples are collected from at least three different places of the dog's coat, chosen by the collector of the sample. The sample is cut with clean scissors or plucked by the roots. A 1 cm wide and 1 mm thick hair sample from each place of the coat is sufficient. The collector of the sample must have well-washed hands or wear talk-free disposable gloves. Scissors are carefully washed after sample collection if samples are taken from more than one dog. Hair collected from different places of the coat is mixed and divided into two samples, sample A and sample B. This is done under the supervision of the person responsible for the dog. Sample A is placed in a clean envelope or paper bag. The same is done to sample B. Samples must be dry when placed in envelopes or bags. A and B sample labels are put on the envelopes.

A nose sample is primarily taken from the top of the nose or the philtrum, either by rubbing the area with a cotton bud or by scraping it carefully with a wooden spatula. Two samples are collected, one as sample A and the other one as sample B. The cotton bud/spatula is placed on a clean paper sheet and the paper is folded multiple times.

Each sample is closed in a separate envelope. Envelopes are sealed by using A and B sealing labels.

## **2.5. Filling out the form**

The sample collection form must be carefully filled out. The same form is used for all samples. In addition to dates, the time the dog has arrived at the doping control station and the time when samples have been collected are recorded on the form.

The person responsible for the dog, a person authorized by him, or a person who is in charge of the dog at the event observes the sealing of samples, checks that the code numbers recorded on the form match the ones on the sealing bags, and approves the collection of samples by signing the form.

The person responsible for the dog is also asked to fill out the field on the form where information about any medication or other treatment given to the dog over the past two weeks is requested. The form is also signed by the DCO in charge of sample collection.

If something out of the ordinary has occurred during the sample collection process, it must be recorded on the form before signing. The specifically marked copies of the sample collection form belong to the Finnish Kennel Club., the DCO, and the person responsible for the dog. The copy that does not include identification details of the dog or the person responsible for it is sent to the laboratory.

## **2.6. Finalizing urine sample collection**

Urine samples A and B, sealed in Minigrip bags, and the red part of the sample collection form are placed in a yellow-striped shipping bag. Multiple urine samples can be placed in the same bag; however, sample A and B of the same dog must be placed in the same bag.

A few paper towels or other absorbent material is placed in the shipping bag in case of leaking or broken bottles. The bag is closed by removing the see-through tape and carefully pressing the sticky part all the way to the edges.

## **3 § Processing samples and further measures**

Samples are mailed to laboratories as regular shipments as soon as possible. Samples are mailed in the sample shipping bag. The address is already on the bag and the shipment is pre-paid.

Before mailing, blood samples are kept in a refrigerator and urine and hair samples are kept in room temperature, in a locked room or other space. The DCO is responsible for storing and sending the

samples. Blood and urine samples are sent to an internationally recognized animal doping laboratory, hair and nose samples to a technical laboratory.

A laboratory does not analyse the sample for instance for following reasons:

- code numbers are incorrect or cannot be read unambiguously
- the amount of sample A or B is insufficient
- the sealing is faulty
- information about the dog or the person in charge of it appear on the form sent to the laboratory

Results are sent from the laboratory to the Finnish Kennel Club within about a month from the day samples arrived at the laboratory. Analysis of hair samples may take longer than that.

If foreign substances are found in the sample, the person responsible for the dog is asked to provide a statement within a week from the request. Received statements are handed to the Animal Competition Anti-Doping Committee, which will issue its statement in the matter. The Finnish Kennel Club decides on further measures. Positive doping tests are reported to authorities.

The person responsible for the dog has the right, within a month from receiving the result for sample A, to have sample B analysed at his own expense at a doping laboratory approved by international sport organizations. The person responsible for the dog or a person authorized by him may be present while the sample is analysed.

#### **4 § Supplementary regulations issued by the Finnish Kennel Club's Board regarding medication and treatment of dogs**

The Board of the Finnish Kennel Club has decided that an advisory list of minimum withdrawal periods for different medicinal products and certain procedures is published on the Finnish Kennel Club's website. These are not binding and, if necessary, a veterinarian treating a dog may extend the withdrawal period based on the dog's illness or the treatment it has received.

The list is updated based on scientific research, when found necessary. The last amendment date is recorded on the document.

The Finnish Kennel Club will publish a medical diary for dogs on its website. All medication prescribed by a veterinarian can be recorded in this booklet, from the start of the treatment to the last day of treatment, as well as the longest indicative withdrawal period for dogs that are treated with many medicinal products. It is recommended that the owner also records all treatments he has given the dog himself. Keeping records is not mandatory and can be replaced by a separate veterinary certificate that includes the same information.

#### **5 § Application procedure for a special permit to compete in canine events with a dog receiving medical treatment for a chronic disease**

Dogs in need of permanent medical treatment for certain illnesses can, according to the Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Regulations, participate in canine events only with a special permit and when meeting requirements specified in these guidelines. In connection with the special permit application process, the dog is permanently transferred to the Finnish Kennel Club's EJ registry (registry for dogs prohibited from breeding). The reason for transfer is recorded in the Finnish Kennel Club's Breeding Database as public information. Offspring of a dog entered to EJ registry are not registered once the registry transfer has been completed. The registration number of a dog entered to EJ registry has the initials EJ, and the text "Not for breeding" is printed on the registration certificate.

## Requirements for application of and granting a special permit and special permit process

- A special permit application is sent to the Finnish Kennel Club.
- The original copy of the dog's registration certificate is attached.
- There is a separate application form for each medication. The application includes a veterinary certificate regarding the dog's health.
- By signing the form, the owner agrees that the dog is permanently transferred to EJ registry and the reason for transfer is recorded in the Finnish Kennel Club's Dog Register.
- Entry to canine events is possible once the special permit process and transfer to EJ registry have been completed.
- When the requirements are met, a special permit, valid until further notice, is granted.
- To control health status, illness control, and correct dosage of medication, a health check-up is performed regularly at least every 12 months. A veterinarian may, case by case, demand check-ups to be performed more often than so, if necessary.
- Participation in canine events requires that the dog has a valid veterinary certificate regarding illness control. A suitable certificate is for instance medical records from a check-up examination or instructions for care at home, confirmed by the veterinarian with date and signature. A certificate of a check-up examination must always be kept with when taking part in canine events.

## Medication and illness specific requirements and observations

### Item a) Thyroid hormone

- Indication treatment of hypothyroidism
- Hypothyroidism has been diagnosed on clear grounds and by having regard to clinical symptoms, changes in the thyroid hormone (T4) and the thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), and response to medication.
- Health status and physical fitness of the dog of have, according to an assessment based on a health examination, been restored as regards hypothyroidism. Control of hypothyroidism has been achieved before the application for a special permit is submitted.
- The dog has not been diagnosed with another simultaneous disease that would compromise hypothyroid control.
- Veterinary check-up at least every 12 months.

### Item b) Ciclosporin

- Indication skin illnesses: Atopic Dermatitis, Sebaceous Adenitis (SA), Perianal Fistulas/Anal Furunculosis
- Indication eye illnesses: Pannus, Chronic Superficial Keratitis, Xerophthalmia
- The illness has been diagnosed on clear grounds and by having regard to clinical symptoms, findings, and response to medication.
- Health status and physical fitness of the dog of have, according to an assessment based on a health examination, been restored as regards the illness. Control of the illness has been achieved.
- The dog has not been diagnosed with another simultaneous disease that would compromise illness control.
- Veterinary check-up at least every 6 months.

### Item c) Phenylpropanolamine

- Indication urinary incontinence in spayed dogs.
- The application must indicate that the dog has been spayed.
- Does not require transfer to EJ registry nor printing the text "Not for breeding" on the registration certificate. A registration certificate does not have to be attached to the

application.

- Veterinary check-up at least every 12 months.

#### Item d) Oclacitinib

- Indication atopic dermatitis and itching caused by allergic dermatitis
- The illness has been diagnosed on clear grounds and by having regard to clinical symptoms, findings, and response to medication.
- Health status and physical fitness of the dog of have, according to an assessment based on a health examination, been restored as regards the illness. Control of the illness has been achieved.
- The dog has not been diagnosed with another simultaneous disease that would compromise illness control.
- Veterinary check-up at least every 6 months.

#### Item e) Lokivetmab

- Indication atopic dermatitis and itching caused by allergic dermatitis
- The illness has been diagnosed on clear grounds and by having regard to clinical symptoms, findings, and response to medication.
- Health status and physical fitness of the dog of have, according to an assessment based on a health examination, been restored as regards the illness. Control of the illness has been achieved.
- The dog has not been diagnosed with another simultaneous disease that would compromise illness control.
- Veterinary check-up at least every 6 months.