

ADVICE FOR TRAINERS AND OWNERS: FEEDING OF ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS TO RACING GREYHOUNDS

The Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) wish to issue guidance to all Industry Participants on the risks of feeding meat to racing greyhounds that may yield a positive test result when sampled under our rules of racing. The reason for these findings is that some meats may contain residues of various drugs that were used to treat animals used for greyhound meat. Racing greyhounds in this context may be defined as any greyhound which is likely to be presented for a Trial, Sales Trial or Race at Licensed Stadia. It is a clear obligation that all dogs presented for Trials, Sales Trials or Racing are free of “prohibited substances”, and the feeding of contaminated meat, whether innocent or not, cannot be a defence at any hearing in that respect. Therefore to ensure that any risk to integrity is managed appropriately, we hereby issue the following directions:

Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 (ABPR) and the implementing regulation (EC) No 142/2011) divides Animal By-Products (ABP's) into three categories, depending on their potential risk to public and animal health. These categories are:

- **Category 1-** which includes specified risk material (SRM), (the highest risk category). This category of meat must be disposed of by rendering or incineration and is not available for feeding to greyhounds;
- **Category 2-** high risk- (this meat is stained green or blue in order to identify it). It is available for feeding under certain conditions but may contain drug residues. For example it has been established that livestock given procaine penicillin before slaughter may serve as a source of urinary procaine in Greyhounds consuming the meat.¹ Category 2 ABP's may therefore contain residues of certain drugs used for animal treatment which could affect the performance of racing greyhounds;
- **Category 3-** low risk (stained sunset yellow).

The IGB advises that when considering whether to feed any Animal By-Products to racing greyhounds all Industry Participants should select Category 3 meats. We do not recommend the feeding of Category 2 meats to racing greyhounds as they may contain residues from the treatment of animals with pharmacologically active substances. Feeding of such contaminated products will not serve as a defence but rather as an aggravating factor to the detection of an adverse analytical finding in any proceedings brought under the Greyhound Industry Act 1958, and in particular at hearings before the independent Control Committee. i.e. contaminated meats are not considered normal or ordinary feeding within the IGB definition of a prohibited substance under the 2007 Racing Regulations.

***prohibited substance** means any substance which by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound the origin of which on or in the tissues, body fluids or excreta of a greyhound could not be traced to **normal and ordinary feeding**. A finding of a prohibited substance means a finding of the substance itself or a metabolite of the substance or an isomer of the substance or an isomer of a metabolite.

¹ Sundlof, S. F., Duer, W. C., Hill, D. W., Gancarz, T., Dorvil, M. G., & Rosen, P. (1983) "Procaine in the urine of racing Greyhounds: possible sources" *American Journal of Veterinary Research*, 44(8), 1583-1587.

For further information on National and EU legislation and information on ABP's please revert to following links:

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/si/187/made/en/pdf> <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02009R1069-20140101&qid=1446130872057&from=EN>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02011R0142-20150223&qid=1446131154415&from=EN>

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