

General Alert to Trainers (Feeding)

Great care and vigilance must be taken in the feeding and training of greyhounds to ensure they are presented for racing drug-free.

Evidence presented at past Inquiries has suggested that contamination of meat with procaine (and other drugs) can occur when livestock (cows, horses, pigs etc) are treated with procaine penicillin G shortly before they die. These animals often end up at the knackery, where the meat is processed as 'not fit for human consumption' and sold on as pet meat. Therefore, the potential for feeding contaminated meat is a serious concern. To avoid the possible detection of procaine (and other drugs) in your greyhound, it is suggested that trainers be well aware of the risk of feeding knackery meat within 36-48 hours of racing. The risk may be small but is it worth the loss of a race due to an avoidable situation? It may be prudent to consider feeding 'clean' meat (i.e. chicken, kangaroo, human consumption meat) or no meat (using a commercial complete dry food) for 48 hours prior to racing. Taking these precautions may slightly increase the feed bill, but may well reduce the chances of a positive drug swab, leading to loss of prize money and a financial penalty or disqualification/suspension.

It is also strongly recommended that the feeding of bread containing poppy seeds, substances containing chocolate, liquids containing tea and/or coffee, and products from 'health food shops' should also be very carefully considered and perhaps avoided in the light.

This is not to suggest that any of these or other substance might be considered an 'inadvertent' positive per se, as each prohibited substance case must be considered on merit and there is clear evidence that some substances may appear in samples via a number of differing sources.