

# Treatments and Supplements



## WHAT DO THE GRNZ RULES OF RACING EXPECT FROM TRAINERS?

There are strict rules governing the preparation and use of treatments and supplements for greyhounds. Trainers must read and familiarise themselves with the Prohibited Substance and Treatment Record Requirement rules found in Part 8 of the **GRNZ Rules of Racing**.

Greyhounds must present at an event, i.e. to race, compete in official trials, or tests to remove a stand-down period, free from Prohibited Substances.

*GRNZ Rules 137, 141 and 145 apply*

Exempted substances can be used on greyhounds, except on a race-day until after their race.

*GRNZ Rule 138 applies*

Certain substances are permanently banned and it is an offence to acquire or possess them; as well as an offence to administer them or cause them to be administered to greyhounds.

*Rules 139 and 144 apply*

Some substances are subject to a regulatory threshold which means that greyhounds are permitted to contain levels of these substances (generally naturally occurring) in a sample (urine) up to the threshold level.

*GRNZ Rule 140 applies*

Treatments used in greyhounds must be registered under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (ACVM) or Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA); or they must be prescribed by a veterinarian for 'off-label' use where no other equivalent registered product exists.

*GRNZ Rule 148 applies*

Compounded medications must not be used or possessed, unless prescribed by a veterinarian where no other registered product exists.

*GRNZ Rule 148 applies*

Scheduled (S4 and above) treatments must be labelled correctly by the prescribing veterinarian for use in a specific greyhound after establishing a therapeutic need.

*GRNZ Rule 148(4) applies*

It is an offence to possess prohibited substances at a racecourse, or in a vehicle used for transporting greyhounds to a racecourse.

*GRNZ Rule 149 applies*

Treatment records must be kept.

*GRNZ Rule 151 applies*

## SUPPLEMENTS AND HERBAL PREPARATIONS

Unless the RIB provides permission to do so, or the substance is prescribed by a veterinarian and correctly labelled, it is an offence under the Rules to possess a supplement or herbal preparation that is not registered under the [Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997](#) or is under permit to be used in canines.

The [GRNZ Use of Alternative or Complementary Medicines Policy](#) applies.

### WHY USE SUPPLEMENTS?

Supplements aim to overcome deficiencies within the diet that may occur due to the way food is processed, preserved and prepared. The greyhound's body requires certain vitamins, minerals, trace elements and electrolytes to function. If there are not enough essential vitamins and minerals in the diet, the body cannot function optimally. Excess vitamins and minerals are sent out of the body as waste.

The amount required of each nutrient can vary depending on the greyhound's age, work load, health status, stress levels and physical condition. Young or growing greyhounds may need different levels of certain vitamins and minerals to ones that are spelled. A breeding female with pups will have different supplement requirements to a greyhound in light work. The decision to add supplements to the greyhound's diet depends on its needs.

Feeding your greyhounds good quality food is the most important step to getting the balance right. If you use commercial, prepared foods, which are nutritionally balanced, an animal nutritionist does the hard work for you, and as long as the food is fresh and stored correctly, it should provide all of the greyhound's requirements. If you choose to prepare the food yourself, you will need to know exactly what's in the food to make sure it's nutritionally balanced and meets the greyhounds' needs. Simply putting some meat, rice, vegies and bread into a bowl is not necessarily providing a complete or balanced diet.

It's a great idea to discuss the food ration you make with your greyhound vet. They will have a good idea of what is likely to be missing, and can advise on a suitable supplement programme for the different life cycles of greyhounds you're feeding. Without adequate knowledge of supplement needs and electrolyte levels it is possible to accidentally cause vitamin and mineral imbalances when using supplements. This can decrease, rather than enhance performance as well as cause potential skeletal growth abnormalities or organ damage.

Remember that unlike horses, greyhounds do not lose electrolytes through sweating and they do not require supplementation with electrolytes for recovery post-race. Excessive use of electrolytes can cause dehydration as the kidneys attempt to filter and excrete the excess salts. Plain water is best.

Supplements should always be avoided close to race-day in racing greyhounds, unless you are using a product registered for use in canines. Generally, supplements are best used under the direction of your veterinarian only. Supplements are not routinely quality tested and often the ingredients do not match the quantities on the label, this means that sometimes they may be contaminated with prohibited substances, or may have compounds, minerals and vitamins at levels which may give rise to a prohibited substance in a sample collected on a race-day. This is especially true when using supplements formulated for horses or other livestock. It is best to only feed a complete kibble diet which has been scientifically formulated and balanced for active dogs, or your own balanced diet, close to racing.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO RECORD ON THE GREYHOUND TREATMENT RECORD?

Treatment records need to be kept for each greyhound from when they come into your care, until they leave your care and they must be kept for at least two years.

They need to contain the following information, at a minimum, recorded by midnight on the day of the treatment:

- (a) name of the greyhound;
- (b) date and time of administration of the treatment;
- (c) name of the treatment (brand name or active constituent);
- (d) route of administration;
- (e) amount given; and
- (f) name and signature of the person or persons administering and/or authorising the treatment.

Treatments, to be recorded each day of treatment include the following:

- (a) all Controlled drugs (Schedule 8 of **Therapeutic Goods (Poisons Standard—October 2023) Instrument 2023**);
- (b) all Prescription only medicines and prescription animal remedies (Schedule 4 of **Therapeutic Goods (Poisons Standard—October 2023) Instrument 2023**);
- (c) any injectable substance not already specified in this rule, notwithstanding the route of administration;
- (d) all Pharmacist only medicines (Schedule 3 of **Therapeutic Goods (Poisons Standard—October 2023) Instrument 2023**) and Pharmacy medicines (Schedule 2 of **Therapeutic Goods (Poisons Standard—October 2023) Instrument 2023**) medicines; and
- (e) all veterinary and other medicines containing other scheduled or unscheduled prohibited substances.

Treatments would include deworming, vaccinations, injectable supplements (even if administered orally), over the counter remedies, and prescribed medications.