



The article below is based on an article on the FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) website: http://inside.fei.org/system/files/FEI%20Warning%20re%20Supplement%20Use%20-%2019%20December%202015_0.pdf

We find FEI's article very useful, even for IFSS purposes, and hope that the other Sports Federation, competing with animals forgives us for "stealing" it.

IFSS Warning Regarding the Administration of Supplements to Dogs

Article 2.1 of the **Anti-Doping Rules for Dogs participating in Sleddog Sports** state that *"It is each Athlete's personal duty to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters his or her Dog's body"*.

Athlete / Dog Owner should be aware that it is **not unusual** for **supplements**, herbal remedies etc. marketed within the dog industry or over the internet to **contain Prohibited Substances or Controlled Medication Substances** that are not disclosed on the product label. It is also possible that those substances are contained in different amounts in the supplement, herbal remedies etc. than stated on the label, or the product used may have been inadvertently contaminated with a Prohibited or Controlled Medication Substance. There is no guarantee that the ingredients list on any supplement, herbal remedy etc. is accurate. Those products are not bound by the same GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) rules and controls as pharmaceuticals. IFSS has also discovered that supplements can be listed with certain ingredients on websites, while the label on the product says something else.

In the past, there have been cases of dogs to which supplements, herbal remedies, snacks etc., have been given, producing positive tests as a result of ingesting such products. Athletes / Dog Owners are responsible for what their dogs ingest and they are, therefore, responsible for any substance found in a sample provided by their dog. A contaminated supplement will not excuse a positive doping test, and sanctions will be imposed in accordance with the rules.

Athlete / Dog Owner have the responsibility to try to take all steps to verify the ingredients of any medicines and supplements that they choose to give (or have given) to their dog.

Athlete / Dog Owner should never purchase (or have purchased) supplements from non-reputable sources. IFSS has no ability to check or declare any supplements as OK, and it is furthermore well known that product ingredients vary from country to country, and even from batch to batch.

When supplements are given to an Athlete's dog, IFSS recommend keeping a logbook listing with all supplements administered to the dog, including all details such as date of administration, dose, place of administration (location), official product name and the relevant batch number.

Any Athlete / Dog Owner who uses supplements, herbal remedies, snacks etc. for his/her dog does so at his or her own risk of committing an Anti-Doping Rules violation.

Athletes / Dog Owners should always ensure that they exercise extreme caution and judgment in the products that they use.

IFSS is concerned about what seems to be a increasing fashion trend when it comes to feeding sleddogs a lot of supplements. From a veterinary point of view, the majority of sleddogs under an appropriate training program, a good nutritional strategy, and a vaccination and deworming plan prescribed by their veterinarian, don't need lots supplements. In fact, oversupplementing with electrolytes and some vitamins can have a detrimental effect on dogs.

IFSS would recommend to visit your veterinarian if you think your dogs are training under their usual performance. Veterinarians, naturally, would be the most suitable to guide you.

Athletes are also advised to ensure that all members of their Support Personnel are informed about the risk of giving supplements, herbal remedies / snacks to their dogs and act accordingly. Be also aware of any supplements or snacks intended for the human Athlete or support personnel that may be left within reach of the dogs and ingested inadvertently.

*The IFSS message is: **"IF IN ANY DOUBT, DO NOT GIVE IT TO YOUR DOG"**.*

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