

Greyhound racing publications – APVMA sponsored article

Illegal vet medicines not worth the risk or the money

Protect your dog's health and performance and your pocket by using APVMA registered products

Stopping and deterring the import of unregistered overseas veterinary products by Australia's racing industries is just one of the jobs that keeps compliance officers at the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) busy on a daily basis.



Lisa Croft, APVMA Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Lisa Croft, APVMA Deputy Chief Executive Officer, said that greyhound owners and trainers using products not scientifically assessed or registered by the APVMA we're risking their dogs' health and performance and their money.

"Any veterinary chemical product that provides a therapeutic benefit or is injected into an animal must be registered by the APVMA before it can be legally manufactured, imported, sold, advertised or purchased in Australia," Lisa said.

"Any human-use medicine or compounded product given to an animal must also be APVMA registered, unless it has been prescribed by a vet."

Lisa explains how hundreds of illegal veterinary products bought from United States-based websites have been seized at the Australian border in the past few years.

"Through our partnership with Australian Border Force we have intercepted and destroyed tens of thousands of dollars of illegal and unsafe injectable medicines destined for use in racing dogs," Lisa said.

"Importers could have saved themselves the financial loss had they first checked whether the product was legal to import into Australia."

"Last year we became aware of a pharmacy in NSW supplying an unregistered injectable muscle treatment drug without a vet prescription to greyhound trainers nationwide," Lisa said.

"Fortunately, the pharmacy responded quickly to our communications and voluntarily changed its practices to comply with agvet laws."

"We appreciate the importance of accessing the latest medicines on the market to keeping racing dogs in top condition and there are numerous products in our public database of registered chemicals that will do the job safely, and as claimed.

"Veterinary chemicals that come through the APVMA's regulatory assessment have gone through the proper checks and balances to ensure product safety and effectiveness."

Report suspicious and unregistered products to the APVMA at compliance@apvma.gov.au or phone 1300 700 315. Reports are treated confidentially and help ensure unsafe or ineffective products do not continue to be available in Australia.

Visit the APVMA website to learn more about choosing safe and effective vet medicines at <https://apvma.gov.au>

Words: 407 (450 max)

Simple actions to buy a safe and effective vet product

- Flip the pack and check the back for the APVMA/NRA approval number
- Drop the product or chemical active name into the APVMA's chemical database to confirm registration at <https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>
- Always use products as directed on the label
- A vet cannot prescribe a particular product name unless it is APVMA registered
- Human-use medicines and compounded products can only be used to treat an animal if prescribed by a vet. For genuine compounding, the vet must provide the ingredient, dose rate and form to the compounding pharmacist
- If you're unsure, speak to your vet or call the APVMA on 1300 700 315.