

Screening Limits Notice to Greyhound Racing Participants and Veterinarians

Greyhound racing participants are advised to make themselves aware of Greyhound Rule of Racing 146 which is titled **Therapeutic Substances and Screening Limits** and states in part;

(6) *The following screening limits apply:*

- (a) *butylscopolamine at a mass concentration of 1 nanogram per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 10 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine*
- (b) *carprofen at a mass concentration of 20 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 5 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine;*
- (c) *dexamethasone at a mass concentration of 200 picograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or urine;*
- (d) *firocoxib at a mass concentration of 2 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or urine;*
- (e) *flunixin at a mass concentration of 1 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 50 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine; and*
- (f) *meloxicam at a mass concentration of 5 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 2 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine*
- (g) *ketoprofen at a mass concentration of 5 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 10 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine.*

A screening limit is the urine or plasma concentration adopted for the screening of a specified therapeutic prohibited substance. These screening limits set out the concentration of the therapeutic substance in urine or plasma above which the racing laboratory will call the sample positive. Screening limits are simply the detection limits to be used by the laboratories when screening for certain therapeutic substances as instructed by the authorities; they are not international thresholds.

The publication of a screening limit, or therapeutic medication detection times arising from limited administration studies, does not replace the need for trainers to obtain specific professional veterinary advice with respect to the treatment of their animals to ensure they comply with the obligations to present runners free of any prohibited substances.

Trainers and Veterinarians are further advised that any such advice provided or received in relation to appropriate withholding periods for therapeutic medications prior to competition should always be conservative in nature and make allowance for individual variations between animals, and factor into account variable treatment dose rates and dose schedules.

The implementation of screening limits in racing is not intended and does not operate to mean that for the purpose of the Rules of Racing the therapeutic substance only becomes a prohibited substance when the screening limit is exceeded.

It shall not be a defence to any charge the relating to the presentation of a racing animal with a prohibited substance present that the initial screening test should have been below the screening limit for the therapeutic substance in question.

In making any decision regarding the administration of a prohibited substance to an animal that is entered to race, participants are reminded of their responsibility in undertaking the appropriate level of due diligence and risk analysis in researching the available information, including the seeking of veterinary advice and applying adequate safety margins to account for biological variability.

A "detection time" is not the same as a "withdrawal time". A suitable safety margin dependent upon various factors including, but not limited to dose, length of treatment, route of administration and other relevant factors including allowance for biological variation between animals must be considered when calculating withdrawal times. To ensure the rules of racing are not breached, in adopting withdrawal times a conservative approach should be taken and include specific veterinary advice in that regard. Where in doubt, participants and Veterinarians should contact the RWAA Veterinary department to ensure any proposed treatments are appropriate given the Rules of Racing.