

## **Administration of Animal Remedies (Veterinary Medicinal Products)<sup>i</sup> to Greyhounds.**

All Animal Remedies administered to canine animals (including greyhounds) by any person (including owners/trainers or Veterinary Practitioners) must be authorised for such use. Animal Remedies for use in Greyhounds in Ireland are authorised by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) or by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) on behalf of the European Union (EU). Animal Remedies other than authorised animal remedies are considered to be illegal animal remedies. It is an offence under the Animal Remedies legislation<sup>ii</sup> to have in your possession or to administer an unauthorised animal remedy to any animal including Greyhounds.

All authorised Animal Remedies must be packaged, labelled and contain a package insert or data sheet (information note) as required by the relevant national and EU legislation. The package/label/data sheet contains not only all of the relevant information concerning the safe and correct use and storage of the remedy, but also enables the person purchasing or using the product to check its status.

Animal Remedies authorised by the HPRA or by the EMA must bear a registration number. In the case of Animal Remedies authorised by the HPRA the registration number is called a Veterinary Product Authorisation Number (VPA) and will be in the following format:

VPA XXXX/XX/XXX.

Similarly as regards those Animal Remedies authorised by the EMA the registration number is called an EU Number and will be in the following format:

EU/X/XX/XXX/XXX

The number of every authorised animal remedy is unique to that product. If the Animal Remedy doesn't bear a registration number then it is not authorised and is consequently illegal.

Animal Remedies authorised for use in canines by the above agencies can be found on the following websites,

<http://www.hpra.ie>

<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

There is a search facility on the respective websites enabling you to locate any authorised animal remedy once you know either the name of the animal remedy or the VPA/EU authorisation number of the remedy. When you have accessed the medicine of your choice you will find all of the information concerning the safe and correct use, storage etc in the documentation provided.

### **Exceptional use and administration of Animal Remedies (The 'Cascade' )<sup>iii</sup>**

Veterinary practitioners may, in exceptional circumstances (i.e. where there is no canine animal remedy authorised and in particular to avoid unacceptable suffering), prescribe and/or administer animal remedies other than those authorised as outlined above. This special provision/regime contained in the Animal Remedies legislation is called the 'Cascade'.

Under the 'Cascade' veterinary practitioners may administer or prescribe to a greyhound animal remedies, authorised for other conditions or other species, and also medicines authorised for human use, provided they meet the conditions of the 'Cascade'.

It is unlawful for persons to administer an animal remedy authorised for canines other than in strict adherence to the conditions of authorisation which are to be found on the label, on the outer package and in the data sheet accompanying the product.

It is unlawful for persons other than veterinary practitioners to administer animal remedies which are authorised for other species e.g. cattle, sheep etc., or remedies such as human medicines, to greyhounds unless they have been prescribed by a veterinary practitioner under the 'Cascade' regime.

Failure to comply with the Animal Remedies legislation in regard to the administration of animal remedies is an offence.

### **Record keeping and prescriptions including prescriptions issued under the 'Cascade'**

The administration of all animal remedies, including Prescription Only Medicines and medicines prescribed by veterinary practitioners under the 'Cascade', must be entered/recorded in the "The Record"<sup>iv</sup> as required by the Welfare of Greyhounds Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 310 of 2016). This must be done within 24 hours of administration of the animal remedy. 'The Record' must be maintained by any person keeping a greyhound for breeding, rearing, training, racing or coursing purposes. In addition there is a requirement to record the nature of any treatment provided by a veterinary practitioner, even where no animal remedy was administered to the greyhound. 'The Record' must contain the following details:

- (a) Name, greyhound tattoo and microchip identification code of the greyhound as contained in the Identity Card of the Irish Greyhound Studbook;
- (b)(i) Name of the Animal Remedy as authorised in accordance with European Communities (Animal Remedies) (2) Regulations 2007 ( S.I. 786 of 2007), or
  - (ii) Nature of the treatment provided by a veterinary practitioner where no animal remedy was administered;
- (c) Date of treatment provided by a veterinary practitioner or the administration of an animal remedy;
- (d) Route and dosage per day quantity of the administration of the animal remedy;
- (e) Name of the person administering the treatment or animal remedy;
- (f) Where appropriate, name and registration details of the person authorising or prescribing the animal remedy or treatment provided by a veterinary practitioner.

This record must be maintained for a period of not less than 12 months.

The record must be produced on request of a welfare officer at the place where the greyhound is kept or within 7 days of being requested if such a request is made anywhere other than where the greyhound is kept.

Persons keeping a greyhound for breeding, rearing, training, racing or coursing purposes are reminded that they have a legal obligation that greyhounds under their care are kept in such a way as to avoid unnecessary suffering and that they must also ensure that greyhounds receive treatment whenever necessary from a registered veterinary practitioner

Failure to keep records in the manner outlined in the Welfare Regulations is an offence under those Regulations. Similar provisions exist under the Racing Regulations and failure to keep such records may result in sanctions under those regulations.

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<sup>i</sup> The terms 'Animal Remedy' and 'Veterinary Medicinal Product ' are synonymous and can be accessed in the following National and European legislation:

- Animal Remedies Act, 1993. Number 23 of 1993
- Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 November 2001 on the Community Code relating to Veterinary Medicinal Products as amended by Directive 2004/28/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of the 31 March 2004 amending Directive 2001/82 on the Community Code relating to Veterinary Medicinal Products

<sup>ii</sup> European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No.2) Regulations 2007.( S.I. No. 786 of 2007)

<sup>iii</sup> Regulation 18. European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No.2) Regulations 2007. (S.I. No. 786 of 2007)

<sup>iv</sup> Welfare of Greyhounds Regulations 2016. (S.I. No.310 of 2016)

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