



International Federation of Sleddog Sports
ATHLETE EDUCATION

DOPING CONTROL TESTING OF DOGS IN SLEDDOG SPORTS

URINE SAMPLE COLLECTING PROCEDURES, STEP BY STEP

Based on the
WADA STANDARDS AND HARMONIZATION
World Anti-Doping Program

It is natural for Athletes to wonder what they will be expected to do if one of their Dogs is selected for urine sample collection as part of a Doping Control Procedure.

The following step-by step explanation will help them to understand and be ready if they should receive Notice of Testing for one of their Dogs.

Doping control of dogs: Step-by-Step Urine Sample Collection

1. Dog selection

The selection of dogs is based on the requirements of the responsible Anti-Doping Organisation (ADO). The selection may occur in three ways; random or targeted based on established criteria, e.g. finishing position or a test required by a race veterinarian. According to WADA recommendations, target tests may also occur, when competitors return after an ineligibility.

2. Notification

A Doping Control Officer (DCO) or the Doping Control Assistant (DCA) will notify the athlete of his or her dog's selection for doping control. The official identification and the authority under which the sample collection is to be conducted are shown to the athlete.

The DCO or DCA will inform the athlete of his or her rights and responsibilities, including the right to have a representative present throughout the entire process.

The selected dog is identified by microchip scanning and at least the six last figures are noted on the Doping Control Form.

The athlete will be asked to sign the form, confirming that he or she has been notified for doping control of one identified dog of his or her team, and that he or she will take part of the information concerning how to handle the dog until it is time for control. The athlete is responsible for what they decide to give the dog to drink in order to hydrate. They are also responsible for what other people may do to their dogs, meaning that a selected dog has to be watched by someone, trusted by the competitor, all the time.

Note! Dogs need to drink more than usually to be able to provide the necessary 50 ml urine at first attempt. A dog that has participated in a long-distance race usually needs more time to hydrate than a dog that has participated in a short-distance race.

The DCO/DCA and the athlete have to agree on a time, not less than one (1) hour later (at least two (2) hours for a long-distance dog) when the competitor is to report outside the Doping Control Station (DCS). The agreed time is noted on the Doping Control Form before the pink summons copy - with the instructions - is handed over to the athlete.

The athlete is also handed a *scribble form* to write down athlete's name, address etc and what the dog has been fed for the past 6 months. This includes medical treatment and all supplements (if relevant) and type of food. (Dryfood brand, meat-and snack brand etc)

If, for some reason, the athlete her/himself cannot be present to fulfill the urine sampling of the selected dog, he or she must *by name* authorize a handler, a team leader or someone else, trusted to take the athlete's place/role in the procedure below. The authorized person will have the same rights, obligations and responsibilities as the athlete would have had regarding the Doping Control procedure, and must be able to identify her/himself when reporting to the DCS at the agreed time. If possible, the Doping Control Form will be contra-signed by the athlete at a later time. In case of an Adverse Analytical Finding or any other Doping Control infraction performed by the athlete's substitute, all the rights, obligations and responsibilities go back to the athlete.

3. Reporting to the Doping Control Station (DCS)

The athlete, together with the representative, should report to the doping control station at the agreed time – ***without the dog!*** The DCO may allow the athlete to delay reporting to the DCS for activities such as a press conference or an awards ceremony.

If the DCS is occupied by the DCO and someone else, handling his or her dog's sample, of course the newly arrived athlete has to wait outside for his or her turn or until new instructions come.

The athlete will be asked to show photo identification, if not known by the DCO. A athlete's inability to provide photo ID shall not invalidate a test. The DCO can have the athlete identified by other means.

4. Selection of Collection Vessel

The athlete is given a choice of individually sealed collection vessels and selects one. The athlete verifies that the equipment is intact and has not been tampered with. The athlete should maintain control of the collection vessel at all times.

The athlete is given a choice of individually sealed pair of gloves and selects one pair.

The athlete verifies that the gloves are intact and have not been tampered with. The athlete

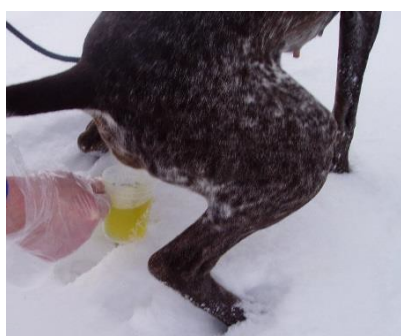
should keep the gloves on at all times during the collection and until the sample is divided and sealed.

5. Provision of sample

After having chosen collection vessel and gloves, the athlete and his or her representative, together with the DCO, proceed to the vehicle, where the dog is waiting in its box, properly looked after by a trusted handler.

The athlete takes off the jacket and/or rolls the sleeves up to the elbows (in the winter, the DCO may inspect the sleeves while still inside the Doping Control Station), puts the gloves on and open the sealed plastic bag.

Not until then the handler brings the dog out of the box and either holds it by a leash or ties it to its usual place at the vehicle. As soon as the dog begins to urinate, the athlete must be ready to collect the urine very quickly, especially if the dog is a male, as they can easily be perturbed and stop. If it is a female, you can leave her to pee for some seconds before you gently disturb her by putting the cup under her tail, as females usually go on until they have finished, once they have started. The DCO only gives instructions and supervises the procedure and must not interfere with the sampling by touching the vessel or the dog, Of course the athlete must try to avoid getting snow, dust or other unknown stuff into the vessel.



When the volume is sufficient the athlete is told to press the lid firmly on the collecting vessel and to keep the gloves on.

The identity of the dog is checked once more by scanning the microchip. The figures from the chip reader, compared to the ones written on the doping control form, are once more checked and attested. The dog may then be put into the vehicle again and the athlete carries the sealed collecting vessel to the DCS, still with the gloves on.

5. Volume of Urine

The DCO shall verify, in full view of the athlete, that the volume of the urine sample satisfies the Laboratories requirements for analysis, minimum 50 ml. If the amount of urine does not meet the minimum requirements, the athlete will proceed with the Partial Sample Process (outlined in the end of this leaflet).

6. Selection of the Sample Transport Kit

If the dog has provided the required volume of urine, the athlete, upon return to the DCS, will be given a choice of individually sealed sample transport kits, from which to choose one. The athlete verifies that the equipment is intact and has not being tampered with.

The athlete will open the box, take out the two bottles and confirm that the sample code numbers on the bottles, the lids and the container all match and that the code number is correctly written on the Doping Control Form.



7. Splitting the sample



The athlete splits the sample him- or herself, without assistance, as follows:
He/she opens the “A” and “B” bottle and removes the red ring around the neck of the bottles.

He/she opens the hole in the collection vessel lid by pulling the ring firmly while pressing the rest of the lid with the other hand with full weight against the table, as instructed by the DCO.

The athlete pours the required volume of urine into the “B” bottle, minimum 10 ml. Then the remaining urine is poured into the “A” bottle.

8. Sealing the sample



The athlete seals the “A” and the “B” bottle.

The representative and the doping control officer (DCO) should verify that the bottles are sealed properly. The athlete is now allowed to take off the gloves, as the sealing of the bottles protects the sample from tampering.

10. Measuring Specific Gravity (not applicable with dogs)

11. Completion of Doping Control Form



The athlete is asked for phone number, postal and e-mail address to be filled in on the Doping Control Form and if the dog belongs to her/him or to someone else.

The athlete is asked to provide information about any prescription/non-prescription medications, supplements and type/brand of food given to the dog at least within the last month, but preferably during the past 6 months. These medications are recorded on the Doping Control Form.

If the dog has been treated with something on the Controlled List, a copy of the appropriate Veterinary Medication Form has to be given to the DCO by the athlete and the medication is recorded on the Doping Control Form.

The athlete has the right – even the obligation - to note comments and concerns regarding the conduct of the doping control session.

The athlete should confirm that all of the information written on the doping control form is correct, including the sample code number.

The laboratory copy of the doping control form must not contain any information that could identify the athlete or the dog and the athlete is asked to check this.

The person who witnessed the collection of the sample (DCO or DCA), the athlete's representative, the athlete and the DCO will sign the doping control form at the end of the sample collection process.

The athlete is given his/her yellow copy of the doping control form.

12. The laboratory Process



Samples are packaged for shipping in such a way as to ensure tracking and the security of the sample. The samples are sent to an IFSS accredited laboratory. The laboratory will inspect the samples upon their arrival to ensure there is no evidence of tampering.

The laboratory will adhere to the international standard for laboratories when processing a sample, ensuring the chain of custody is maintained at all times. The "A" sample will be analyzed for substances of the Controlled and Prohibited Lists. The "B" sample is securely stored at the laboratory and may be used to confirm an Adverse Analytical Finding (positive result) from the "A" sample.

The laboratory will report the results of the sample analysis to the responsible Anti-Doping Organization who is entitled to report to WADA.

Partial Sample Process

Sealing the Partial Sample

When an insufficient volume of urine is provided by the dog, the athlete will proceed with the Partial Sample Process until the required amount of volume is provided and collected. During this process the partial sample(s) will be sealed and securely stored and the number(s) of the sealed collecting vessel(s) and the volume(s) will be noted on the Doping Control Form. The sealed partial sample(s) should be placed under lock **by the athlete** and there remain in the control of the DCO.

The athlete is given a new time, about one hour later, to report at the DCS and is instructed to hydrate the dog even more.

The process of sample collection continues as described before.

Combining the sample

When the required amount of urine has been provided, the athlete, him- or herself, will collect his/her dog's earlier sample(s) from the - until now - locked storage. The athlete will then combine the dog's samples by pouring into the first sample each subsequent partial sample until the desired volume is reached. The sample is then split and sealed according to the steps outlined before.

Information from a WADA booklet for human athletes, changed to suit the urine sample collection from dogs, by Carin Ahlstedt in February 2008.
Updated October 2017 by Anne-Grethe Sætrang/Marianne Lund.
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