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## DOPING CONTROL TEST OF DOGS AT ICF EVENTS

### *DOG URINE SAMPLE COLLECTION: A STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE*

#### *Acronyms:*

DCO	ICF Doping Control Officer
DCP	Doping Control Procedures
DCF	Doping Control Form
DCS	Doping Control Station
UC	Urine Collection
TR	Trusted Representative
TH	Trusted Handler

#### **1<sup>st</sup> STEP: Selection of Dogs for Doping Control**

The selection of dogs for doping control during competition days, from the official opening to the official closing of the stake-out, is conducted by the ICF Animal Welfare and Antidoping Committee. Selection methods, considering different specialties (canicross, bikejoring, scooter) and different classes, include:

- I. Random selection from the starting orders.
- II. Targeted selection based on the athlete's ranking at the end of the first or second competition day (e.g., dogs of athletes finishing among the top five).
- III. Targeted selection based on the order of arrival at the finish line during the first or second competition day (e.g., the dog of the athlete crossing the finish line in a specific position).
- IV. Targeted selection based on suspicion, as indicated by the Race Judge or Race Veterinarian.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> STEP: Notification to the Athlete**

- a) An ICF "Doping Control Officer" (DCO) will notify the athlete (in any moment during competition days) about which dog has been selected for doping control. The DCO identifies himself to the athlete through an identity document as the person appointed by the ICF to conduct the "Doping Control Procedure" (DCP). If the Athlete does not speak or understand English, he/she must nominate a person of his/her choice to translate from English in his native language during the notification procedure.
- b) The DCO will inform the athlete of his/her rights and responsibilities, including the right to appoint a "Trusted Representative" (TR) of his/her choice (e.g. his/her Team leader) to assist or substitute him/her throughout the DCP and/or a "Trusted Handler" (TH) to care for the dog during



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the time prior to urine collection. The selected dog will be identified by microchip scanning, and the six last figures of chip number will be noted on the "Doping Control Form" (DCF).

- c) The DCO and the Athlete will have to agree on a time, noted on the DCF, when the athlete and his/her TR, if nominated as witness, will have to show to the Doping Control Station (DCS), without dog and not less than one hour after notification. with their own ID documents, the dog documents (e.g. passport or similar documents, showing all dog's data - microchip number, name, breed, sex, age and possibly weight), any copies of form presented at pre-start Veterinary Check (Declaration of Treatment, Form of exemption C, Form of Exemption T), and possibly a list of foods (e.g., raw meat) and supplements used in the last month before the event, at risk of involuntary contamination with doping substances.
- d) The Athlete and/or the "Handler" will then be requested to:
- I. Bring the dog to the stake out and keep the dog in an enclosed environment (e.g. a cage), under strict control of the TH until the "Urine Collection" (UC) has been done, so that no possible doping substance can be given to the dog accidentally or by purpose, since the Athlete is responsible even for what other people may do (or have done before DCP) to the dog
  - II. Make the dog drink more water than usual, to improve its hydration condition, without letting the dog urinate before the agreed UC time, in order to have the dog able to provide the necessary quantity of urine for the test (at least 50 ml at first UC attempt, a quantity to be divided into sample A and B).
- e) The Athlete will be asked to sign the DCF, confirming that he/she has been notified for the doping control of the identified dog, the time to show at DCS and how to oversee the dog until UC time.

**NB:** If the Athlete cannot report to DCS or be present during the UC of the dog (e.g. due to participation in the awards ceremony or because he/she is undergoing medical treatment), then he/she must authorize a TR as substitute, to take his/her place and role during the procedure at DCS and/or UC. The TR will have the same rights, obligations, and responsibilities as the Athlete would have had regarding the DCP and must be able to identify him/herself with ID documents when reporting to the DCS at the agreed time. If possible, the DCF will be contra-signed by the Athlete later, after the DCP has been performed. In case of an Adverse Analytical Finding on the dog urine sample or any other Doping Control infraction performed by the TR, all the rights, obligations and responsibilities will go back to the Athlete.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> STEP: Procedures at the Doping Control Station (DCS)**



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- a) The athlete, together with the TR, will have to report to the DCS at the agreed time, **without the dog**. If the DCS should be already occupied by the DCO and/or someone else, handling a previous DCP, of course the last arrived athlete will have to wait outside for his/her turn or until new instructions come. In the DCS the athlete will be asked to show an ID document with photo identification, if not known by the DCO or identified by other means. The athlete's inability to provide a photo ID will not invalidate the test.
- b) The athlete will be given a choice of individually sealed urine collection vessels and will select one. The athlete will verify that the equipment is intact and has not been tampered with. The athlete should always maintain control of the collection vessel.
- c) The athlete will be given a choice of individually sealed pair of gloves and will select one pair. The athlete will verify that the gloves are intact and have not been tampered with.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> STEP: Procedure of Urine Collection (UC)**

- a) After having chosen a collection vessel and the gloves, the athlete, and his/her TR, together with the DCO, will proceed to the place where the dog will be waiting in a cage, properly looked after by a TH.
- b) The athlete will take off the jacket and/or rolls the sleeves up to the elbows, to show the DCO that nothing is hidden there. After that, the athlete will open the sealed plastic bags containing the gloves and the urine collection vessel and will wear the gloves. NB: The athlete should wear the gloves and always keep the gloves on, without touching any other thing, during the collection of urine and until the sample will be divided into samples A and B and sealed.
- c) While the Athlete wears the gloves and holds the collection vessels, the TH will scan the microchip before letting the dog out of the cage. The figures from the chip reader, compared to the ones written on the doping control form, will be checked and the TH will then bring the dog (hold by a leash!) out of the cage. As soon as the dog will begin to urinate, the athlete must be ready to collect the urine, especially if the dog is a male, as they can easily stop if disturbed. If it is a female, the athlete will leave her urinate for few seconds before putting the vessel under her tail, as females usually go on urinating until they have finished once they have started. The DCO will only give instructions about the procedure and will not interfere with the sampling by touching the vessel or the dog, while of course the athlete will try to avoid getting any foreign material into the vessel (e.g. grass, dirt). The DCO will verify, in full view of the athlete, that the volume of the urine sample satisfies the Laboratories requirements for analysis (minimum 50 ml).



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#### **5<sup>th</sup> STEP: Partial Sample Process**

- a) If the amount of urine does not meet the minimum requirements, the athlete will proceed with the “Partial Sample Process” until the required amount of volume is collected. as follows:
- I. The vessel(s) containing the partial sample(s) will be sealed and brought by the Athlete (who will keep the gloves on), accompanied by the DCO, to the DCS and securely stored there, while the number(s) of the sealed collecting vessel(s) and the volume(s) will be noted on the DCF. The sealed partial sample(s) will be placed under lock by the athlete and remain in the control of the DCO.
  - II. The athlete will be given a new time, about one hour later, to report at the DCS while the TH will be instructed to hydrate the dog even more.
  - III. The process of UC will be repeated as before and when the required amount of urine will be provided the athlete will collect earlier sample(s) from the locked storage. The athlete, wearing the gloves, 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 will then be split and sealed according to the following STEP.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> STEP: Procedure of Urine Sample preparation**

- a) If the volume is sufficient the dog will be put back into the vehicle and the athlete will press the lid firmly on the collecting vessel to close it, carrying it to the DCS, still with the gloves on.
- b) The athlete will be given a choice of individually sealed sample transport kits, from which to choose one. The athlete will verify that the bag is intact and has not been tampered with. The athlete will open the bag, take out the two bottles, and confirm that the sample code numbers on the bottles, the lids, the bar-code, and the container all match and that the code number is correctly written on the Doping Control Form.
- c) The athlete will split the sample, without assistance, as follows:
- I. He/she will open the “A” and “B” bottle and removes the red ring around the neck of the bottles.
  - II. He/she will open 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.
  - III. He/she will pour the required volume of urine into the “B” bottle first (minimum 10 ml) while the remaining urine will be then poured into the “A” bottle.
- d) The athlete will seal the “A” and the “B” bottle and the



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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.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> STEP: Completion of Doping Control Form**

- a) The athlete will fill in DCF:
  - I. His/her own data (name and surname, date of birth, ID document number, address, email, phone number) and the data of the owner if the dog is property of someone else (name and surname, address, email, phone number).
  - II. Dog's data (microchip number, name, breed, sex, age, and weight, if known).
  - III. What the dog has received in the last month as medical prescription/non-prescription treatments, supplements, and type of food, as in the Forms eventually presented at pre-start Veterinary Check (Declaration of Treatment, Form of exemption C, Form of Exemption T).
  - IV. Comments and concerns regarding the conduct of the doping control session
- b) The athlete and the DCO will check and confirm that all the information written on the DCF are correct (including the sample code number) and at the end of the DCP, the Athlete, the TR and the DCO will sign the DCF.
- c) The Athlete will receive a signed copy of the DCF; a signed copy will remain in the hand of DCO while the Laboratory copy, as checked by the Athlete, will not contain any information that could identify the athlete or the dog.

#### **P.S. - The Laboratory Process**

Samples will be packaged for shipping in such a way as to ensure tracking and the security of the sample. The samples will be sent to an ICF 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 always maintained. The "A" sample will be analyzed for Prohibited and Under Control substances as on ICF Lists. The "B" sample will be securely stored at the laboratory and used (if requested by the Athlete) to confirm or refute an Adverse Analytical Finding from the "A" sample.

The laboratory will report the results of the sample analysis to ICF, who will decide on any possible sanction in case of a confirmed positive result.