

Medication Storage and Disposal

GRSA Welfare Policy 2021 - Relevant Standards

Medications/Supplements

'All medication and supplements are to be labelled in accordance with legislation and caution should be taken by registered persons to know what ingredients are in any medication and supplements used'.

'All supplements and injectable substances should be individually labelled and kept in their original container or packaging. All medications, supplements or injectable substances are to be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.'

Prescribed Medication Storage

'All prescribed veterinary medication are to be clearly labelled and kept in a secure, lockable area such as a locked kennel house, padlocked refrigerator or padlocked container.'

Legislation

Government legislation controls and informs the general population on how drugs and poisons are kept, stored and sold. They outline who can keep them, and the conditions they must be stored under for safe and effective use. There are several Federal and State legislations that apply to the use of specific drugs and poisons, and as a Greyhound Racing participant, it is important to understand the limitations they face.

Federal Legislation; Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons. No.26 December 2019.

South Australian Legislation; Controlled Substances Act 1984, Controlled Substances [Controlled Drugs, Precursors and Plants] Regulation 2014, Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994.

Storing Medications

Always follow the storage requirements labelled on the treatment/medication, or otherwise specified upon administration by your veterinarian. Legislation requires individuals to keep medication in their original container or packaging. When storing medication, conditions will be specified on the label [e.g. temperature or climate]. It is important to follow these instructions, as effectiveness and viability of the product is generally reliant on storage conditions. Where there are no specifications, contact your veterinarian, and generally keep in a cool, dry area away from direct sunlight.

Participants are required to keep medications in a secure, lockable area. This can include a lockable cabinet or cupboard, in either a laundry or garage. Ensure wherever the product is stored, it is away from children and animals, and away from food and food relevant equipment. A lockable environment ensures security, and peace of mind knowing products cannot be lost or tampered with.

Labelling Requirements

The Rules of Racing, and more importantly, State and Federal Legislation, have well defined rules in place relative to labelling and identification of medications. Rules are so precise, that even the font, size, colour and position of warnings are outlined in the legislation. The label of each medicine dispensed must include the following particulars under state and territory legislation:

- The brand and generic names of the medicine, the strength, the dose form and the quantity supplied.
- Specific directions for use, including frequency and dose.
- The patients (greyhounds) name.
- The date of dispensing or supply.
- The initials of the veterinarian (and if different, the initials of the pharmacist checking and issuing the medicine).
- A unique identifying code for the dispensed medicine.
- The name, address and telephone number of the pharmacy, pharmacy department or veterinary practice at which the medicine was dispensed.
- The applicable storage directions and expiry date of the medicine which are required to facilitate the safe and effective use of the medicine by the patient.
- The words 'Keep out of reach of children'.

Disposal of Medication and Treatment

GRSA advises against the disposal of expired or unused medication and treatment into rubbish or plumbing systems. Putting chemicals into landfill or waterways can damage the environment and put individuals at risk. Veterinarians will generally only prescribe enough medication for a specific course/timeframe, so there shouldn't be reason for excess medication. Where there is excess, GRSA encourages disposing medication at either a pharmacy, or veterinary clinic. Safe disposal of medication and treatments promotes communal pharmaceutical safety.