

# Storage & disposal of medicines

## Industry Practice Guide 10.0



### Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice

Relevant Standards:

**3.8** Any medications prescribed by a veterinarian for a greyhound must be administered in accordance with veterinary directions. **R**

**3.9** Medications, treatments, or supplements must be labelled clearly and kept in their original container or packaging.

**3.10** All expired medications, supplements and injectable substances must be disposed of according to relevant legislative requirements.

**3.15** Worming and parasite treatments must be used and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or at the direction of a Veterinarian. **R**

Medications, treatments and supplements are a part of life for participants who keep greyhounds.

The purpose of this guide is to provide guidance on storing and disposing of medicines and other treatments.

### Storing medications and treatments

Most medicines and treatments will have directions on storage included in the labelling or packaging.

The Code of Practice requires participants to keep medications, treatments and supplements in their original container or packaging.

Often the label will include information about how the medicine should be stored (e.g. "refrigerate at or below 8°C").

If the medication or treatment includes this information, it is important to follow the instructions. Some medicines lose their effectiveness when stored above the recommended temperature, and some may change form and become difficult to use. For example, gelatine capsules may go soft, and ointments and creams may become runny and difficult to apply.

If there are no specific instructions on the packet, it is best to keep medications, treatments and supplements in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight.

Most medicines should be stored at below 25°C. Avoid leaving medicines and treatments in warm places such as in front of a window, where the temperature can rise quickly. Storing medicines in the bathroom is also not recommended, as medicines can be affected by humidity.

Many participants have a storage cabinet or cupboard, often in their laundry or garage.

Wherever you choose, it is important to store medicines and treatments away from kids and animals.

Many participants will keep their medicines and treatments in a locked cabinet, to ensure that children can't get to them. Keeping treatments secure will also give you the peace of mind of knowing that they cannot be lost or tampered with.

Some medicines and treatments need to be stored in a fridge – if so, it will say so on the label. Liquid medicines and vials will often require refrigeration, for example.

If you do need to store medicines or treatments in the fridge, keep them in the main compartment – not the freezer. If the medicine or treatment freezes, it may be damaged. Even once the product defrosts, it may not be safe to use. If this happens, it is best to call your vet to ask for advice.

### Labelling requirements

The Rules of Racing require that medications prescribed by a veterinarian must be clearly labelled. Labelling must include the:

- type of medication prescribed
- strength of medication and dose prescribed
- frequency and route of administration;
- duration of treatment
- greyhound patient details
- name and address of the veterinarian who prescribed the medication.

All medications must be administered according to veterinary instructions.

All medications must remain in their original packaging indicating the type of medication and the strength of the medication as well as its registration details.

### Disposing of medicines and treatments

Throwing expired or unused medicines and treatments in the rubbish creates a risk that they will hurt someone. Putting chemicals into landfill can also damage the environment.

The Return Unused Medicines (RUM) Project encourages Australians to dispose of unwanted medicines responsibly.

You can return all prescription medicines, treatments and supplements to your community pharmacy. The service is free and the pharmacy will dispose of them safely. This includes medicines and treatments for animals.

Most medicines can be placed directly in the disposal bin provided at your community pharmacy. There are a small number of drugs (such as strong pain medications) that may need to be processed by the pharmacist, so if you are not sure it is best to let the pharmacist know what you are returning and ask their advice.