

Information to Greyhound Trainers – CCA timber as a source of Arsenic

Warning to Trainers – CCA-treated Timber and Greyhounds

Trainers are advised to be extremely cautious allowing greyhounds access to products that contain arsenic close to racing as this may inadvertently lead to a rise in urinary arsenic levels. **Access includes the ability to lick, chew and ingest CCA-treated timber that may be in the greyhound's environment** including the kennel/run construct. Greyhound's that are known to regularly 'wood chew' are advised to be kept in kennels made from substances other than CCA-treated timber.

An inorganic form of arsenic is used as an insecticide in the timber treatment chromated copper arsenate (CCA). CCA has been used to treat wood for many decades. Inorganic arsenic is more toxic than organic arsenic and can affect the skin, and respiratory, immune, urinary, reproductive, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of mammals.

Arsenic a prohibited substance when it is present in a greyhound at a mass concentration above 800 nanograms per millilitre (GAR 83 (11)): *"Arsenic at or below a mass concentration of 800 nanograms per millilitre (ng/ml) in a sample of urine taken from a greyhound will not breach the provisions of sub rule (1A) or (2) of this rule."*

Arsenic can also be present in some seaweed based nutritional supplements. It is the responsibility of each trainer to carefully consider access to any sources of prohibited substances and the use of any supplements/additives to ensure that the greyhound is presented for racing free of any prohibited substance.

Trainers are put on notice that environmental contamination (through CCA timber or other means) will not necessarily be considered a significant penalty mitigating factor for presentation of a Greyhound with urinary concentrations above the arsenic threshold in the future. Trainers are advised to take measures to ensure that greyhounds do not have access to environmental sources of arsenic including treated timber products.

For further information please contact the Office of Racing Integrity