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IRISH GREYHOUND BOARD (IGB) ESTABLISHES AN EXPERT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE TO COMMENCE ANTI-DOPING AND MEDICATION CONTROL RESEARCH IN 2016

The IGB has established a Scientific Committee on Doping and Medication Control. Its mandate will be to advise the IGB on a continuous basis on scientific matters relating to anti-doping and medication control in greyhounds. In particular it will review the current list of substances which are prohibited or controlled and, where applicable, their associated thresholds or limits. It will also advise the IGB on any changes considered necessary from a scientific and pharmacological point of view.

The Committee of five experts represent the various disciplines of relevance to such a task: animal remedies, veterinary pharmacokinetics, canine internal medicines, analytical chemistry and greyhound veterinary practice. Each of the individuals concerned have been appointed recently for a term of three years initially and have the relevant experience in aforementioned disciplines. That experience includes the assessment of veterinary medicines for regulatory approval purposes, both at a national and at a European level, the control of such medicines in the field, and the sampling and analysis of animals for residues.

The research of this committee will ensure a scientifically sound basis for the IGB’s anti-doping and medication control and policy into the future and will thus contribute to greater confidence for the integrity and welfare of the sport.

Referring to the establishment of the new committee, Minister for state at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr. Tom Hayes TD, said:

“It is critically important for the future of greyhound racing in Ireland that we build an international reputation for the highest standards of integrity. Bord na gCon is taking positive steps in this regard and I very much welcomed its recent announcement that positive results for prohibited substances would be published without delay. The establishment of this committee, which will ensure that the very best scientific expertise is deployed to strengthen the control regime, sends a very clear message that the use of prohibited substances in greyhound racing will not be tolerated”.

Speaking from the host venue for this Committee, The Chairman of Bord na gCon, Phil Meaney commented:

“This is an extremely important milestone for the advancement of Bord na gCon’s medication and doping control policies. As more and more substances become available that can affect greyhounds and new analytical methods are developed it is crucial that Bord na gCon establish and retain an infrastructure of experts in this field on a continuing basis to meet such challenges.

The Members of the Committee are:

Chairman: Dr. Patrick Brangan MVB MRCVS

Dr Brangan is a member of the Board of the Health Product Advisory Authority (formerly the Irish Medicines Board), and Chairman of the Irish Advisory Committee for Veterinary Medicines. He formerly held a senior management position in the Department of Agriculture with responsibility, inter alia, for Veterinary Medicines and the Special Investigations Unit.

Greyhound Practice: Dr. Denis Beary MVB MRCVS

Dr Beary is a greyhound veterinarian, who practices from the Canine Sports Medicines Clinic in Rathangan, County Kildare. He also has responsibility in relation to the UCD Postgraduate Certificate in Canine Sports Medicine.

Canine Internal Medicines: Dr. Rory Breathnach MVB MSc PhD MRCVS

Dr Breathnach qualified from the faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCD) in 1986. His MSc is in drug toxicology from the University of London. He currently teaches various aspects of small animal internal medicines and toxicology. He is a member of both the Irish advisory Committee on Veterinary Medicines (the Health Product Advisory Authority (formerly the Irish Medicines Board), and the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products of the European Medicines Agency in London.

Pharmacokinetics: Professor Christian Friis DVM PhD

Professor Friis is Professor in in Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He has served in a variety of positions both regulatory and academic, and has a particular interest in Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic modelling and residue depletion studies. He is a member of the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products of the European Medicines Agency, and of the Danish National Board of Drug Registration.

Analytical Chemistry: Paul O’Sullivan BSc MSc

Paul O’Sullivan is a Research Scientist with Reagecon Diagnostics Limited. Prior to Reagecon Limited, he had responsibility for the delivery of drug screening, detection and confirmatory analysis for sports integrity purposes with BHP Laboratories.