

ECF 2017 - XX EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

CANICROSS - BIKEJORING - SCOOTER

SANTA MARIA MAGGIORE (VERBANIA) ITALY

OCTOBER 12th - 15th 2017

NOTES ABOUT VETERINARY SERVICE

A team of eight Veterinarians (4 from Italy, 1 from Spain, 1 from England, 1 from France, 1 from Portugal), coordinated by an Italian Chief Veterinarian (Dr. Sergio Maffi), will be in charge of the veterinary service during the XX EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP CANICROSS AND BIKEJORING ECF 2017. The Vet Team will check documents and visit dogs before the start of the race and will offer professional service with a 24h guaranteed availability at the venue of the event, from 12 o'clock on Thursday October 12th until the closing ceremony of Sunday October 15th.

The main goal of the Vet team is to assure that only healthy dogs will take part to the competition and that as many as possible of them will reach the finish line happy and in good health. Thanks to a constant commitment to preserve the health state and respect the welfare of the dogs, the Vet team will always work in observation of the ECF rules and for the correctness of the competition.

The Veterinarians of the Vet Team, who have a specific professional interest in sporting dogs, are members of the "Italian Sleddog and Canicross Veterinary Association" (AIVSeC) and/or of the "International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association" (ISDVMA) and all of them have extensive experience in national and international canicross and sleddog competitions (both sprint and middle/long distance).

VETERINARY PRE-START DOG INSPECTION

All dogs competing at ECF Championships will be required to go through a veterinary inspection before entering the competition.

The pre-start inspection will be organized, in order to avoid long waiting queues and situations of stress or conflicts for the dogs, by examining at a certain pre-fixed time all the dogs of each national delegation.

National delegations will be informed in advance about the exact time of their veterinary check, so that, on each specific time, only the designed national delegation will have to queue in the area where the veterinary check will take place.

Each dog must be presented with a **valid EU Pet Passport (EUPP)**, which must show:

- Microchip number (possibly with date of implant and position in the dog's body)
- Dog's date of birth
- Vaccinations against Rabies and Parainfluenza (one of the viral agents causing Canine Infectious Tracheobronchitis - aka "Kennel cough") (with date, vaccines manufacturer, products name, vaccines batch number, dates the vaccinations are valid until, vet's signature with official stamp, possibly reporting vet's contact details).

During the veterinary pre-start inspection there will be:

- 1) A **microchip check** to identify the dog, matching the scanned code with the number reported on the EUPP
- 2) An **age check** as declared on the EUPP (at least, on the day the race starts, the dog must have 12 months for canicross and 18 months for bikejoring and scooter)
- 3) A **check for mandatory vaccination**.

Rabies and Parainfluenza vaccinations must have been done at least 21 days before the race starts.

In regard to the date of "end of validity" of these vaccinations (which can be different in different country because of different national health authority registration), only the signature of a Vet on the EUPP, with his own official stamp (possibly reporting Vet's contact details), will be taken in consideration to testify the dates until the vaccinations are valid. The date of "end of validity" of these vaccinations must at least be the day after the race finish.

N.B. Based on ECF 18 rule exemption, issued by ECF President, vaccines against Parainfluenza (Pi), one of the viral components of "Kennel Cough", will be considered valid for admission to the European Championship ECF 2017, even if they do not provide immune stimulation against Bordetella bronchiseptica (Bb). Dogs vaccinated only with "multivalent" vaccines, as long as not expired and with a Pi component, will be admitted to the competition, just like those correctly vaccinated against both "Kennel Cough" components (= Parainfluenza + Bordetella).

Considering the large number of dogs registered for ECF 2017, it is strongly suggested, even if not mandatory, to have dogs properly vaccinated against other common dangerous diseases, such as leptospirosis, distemper, canine parvovirus and canine infectious hepatitis.

For the same reason it is also recommended to keep the dogs under prevention and/or treatment for possible external and internal parasitic diseases.

4) A clinical visit

During the pre-start check every dog will be visited to evaluate:

1. Heart frequency and heart sounds
2. Respiratory and lung sounds
3. State of nutrition (body condition score)
4. Hydration state
5. Orthopedic conditions of the limbs and columns with focus on joints, muscles, tendons and ligaments
6. Condition of skin and annexes
7. Possible gastrointestinal symptoms
8. Possible urinary symptoms
10. Rectal temperature (if necessary)

NB: The dog can be excluded from starting in the competition if aggressive and presented to the visit without a muzzle or if the results of the clinical visit do not comply with a good health and welfare status or if the details in its EUPP are not properly reported or if they do not match with what was found during veterinary pre-start inspection.

By ECF Rules, female dogs in heat will be authorised to start only if steps are taken to mitigate the adverse effects of this period.

The Vet will decide if a bitch found pregnant or lactating may start or not.

MARKING OF CHECKED DOGS

After the veterinarian inspection, all dogs admitted to the race will be marked by a color spray (letter C = *checked*) and only these checked dogs will then be allowed to enter the starting area.

NOT COMPETING DOGS

Due to the possibility of infection, no other dogs will be accepted in the racing area without going through a veterinary check. If the dog pass positively the exam, this will be testified by a spray mark (letter V = *visitor*) made with a different colour from that used for competing dogs.

VETERINARY DOG INSPECTION DURING THE RACE

Clinical visits and controls of the competing dogs will be eventually done during and after each day of the event. This will be done, in case of need, to evaluate the health condition of the dog (and possibly treat it), as requested by competitor, Veterinarians or ECF organization.

If a competitor refuses a veterinary control, he will be excluded from the event.

NOTES FOR FOREIGN COMPETITORS

FOR INFO ABOUT MOVEMENT OF DOGS AMONG EU MEMBER STATES, SEE EU OFFICIAL WEB SITE AT. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32013R0576>

All foreign competitors must remember that when entering Italy with dogs (as well as when moving dogs into a EU Member State from another EU Member State) the following conditions must be met:

- Marking - The dog must be marked by the implantation of a transponder (see technical specifications in Annex II to [Regulation \(EU\) No 576/2013](#))
- Passport and declaration - The dog must be accompanied by:
 - a passport (see model in Part 1 of Annex III to [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 577/2013](#)) completed and issued by an authorised veterinarian documenting the alpha-numeric code displayed by the transponder, the details of the vaccination against rabies, and where applicable, the details of the treatment against *Echinococcus multilocularis* (*)
 - a written declaration signed by the owner, to carry out the movement of the animal on behalf of the owner, in the case where the movement of the animal is done under the responsibility of a person who is not the owner.
- Vaccination against rabies - The dog must be vaccinated against rabies by an authorised veterinarian in accordance with Annex III to [Regulation \(EU\) No 576/2013](#), as follows:
 - the animal was at least 12 weeks old at the date the vaccine was administered
 - the date of administration of the vaccine does not precede the date of marking or reading of the transponder
 - the period of validity of the vaccination starts not less than 21 days from the completion of the vaccination protocol for the primary vaccination, and any subsequent vaccination is carried out within the period of validity of the preceding vaccination.

NB Competitors re-entering Norway, Finland, United Kingdom, Ireland and Malta with dogs after the competition, must treat the dogs against the parasite *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011, as follows:

- the treatment must be administered by a veterinarian within a period of not more than 120 hours and not less than 24 hours before the time of scheduled re-entry to those above mentioned country
 - the treatment must be certified by the administering veterinarian in the relevant section of the passport with noted day and time of subministration
- the treatment will be aivalable on request through ECF Vet team.