

# In Brief

## **Racing in season**

Observations have indicated the risk of muscle and bone injuries are not significantly increased if a bitch is raced when she is in season.

This is in contrast to the much increased risk of pelvic and ligament injuries when a bitch is galloped when in the full term false pregnancy state where pelvic and hind limb ligaments and muscles are relaxed.

There is a significant decrease in performance in bitches in season due to hormones which can reduce the strength of body muscles.

Bitches in season may also dehydrate and lose essential body salts as they usually urinate much more frequently. There is a concern that bitches given male hormone based suppressants, particularly as an oral tablet, can develop liver suppression and liver cell damage after long term daily oral use.

It has been reported that severe ovarian haemorrhages can occur when bitches are raced in full season.

## **MOLLASSES**

MOLLASSES contains sucrose which is broken down during digestion to glucose units and then absorbed to increase the amount of blood sugar.

This increases the energy available but excess glucose in the blood triggers a release of insulin hormone which can decrease energy reserve and lead to a flattening affect of the animal's energy supply.

In some ways sugar from mollasses is less likely to cause this rebound effect than pure glucose or dextrose alone because it takes time to digest the sucrose to glucose.

Therefore a small amount of sugar such as 20gms which would be supplied by about 30mls of mollasses mixed in water could be useful to increase blood glucose levels if given 2-3 hours prior to galloping.

Excess amounts given within this period could actually lower blood glucose due to the insulin response.