

Olympian Avoids Doping Ban after Spotting Dog Medication on Skin

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Clear (Verb) /klaɪr/ to officially state that someone is not guilty of a crime
Example: The suspect was cleared of all charges after the DNA evidence proved his innocence.
2. Doping (Noun) /'dəʊpɪŋ/ the act of taking a banned drug to improve one's physical performance
Example: Lance Armstrong was considered one of the best cyclists ever before he was found to be doping.
3. Tiny (Adjective) /'taɪni:/ very small
Example: The X-ray showed a tiny fracture in his wrist.
4. Drug (Noun) /drʌɡ/ a substance used in medicine
Example: Acetaminophen is a common over-the-counter drug used to treat pain and fever.
5. Positive (Adjective) /'pɔːzətɪv/ showing evidence that a condition or substance is present
Example: If you test positive for COVID-19, you should stay home for at least 7 days.
6. Punish (Verb) /'pʌnɪʃ/ to make someone experience something unpleasant because they did something wrong
Example: He was punished by his teacher for being late.



An Olympic athlete has been cleared of breaking doping rules after a tiny amount of a banned drug was found to be in her body. Katerina Nash is a Czech mountain biker and cross-country skier who took part in two Winter and three Summer Olympics. She told the Associated Press that for 15 years she has taken every drug test and never had a bad result. But this time was different and Nash could have been banned from sports for four years after a

test by the US Anti-Doping Agency — or USADA — showed a tiny amount of a drug called capromorelin was in her body.

However, scientists at USADA discovered that capromorelin is in a medicine that is given to dogs. Nash had been feeding this medicine to her sick dog Rubi for three weeks — and she hadn't been using gloves.

The USADA scientists put this medicine on their own skin to see what would happen and in days they tested positive too. So, USADA has now decided that the drug got into Nash's body through her skin when she was feeding her dog and she will not be punished for breaking doping rules.

However, although it was an accident, according to the rules of the World Anti-Doping Agency — or WADA — her positive result still has to be recorded and publicly announced. USADA released the news on March 2 with the headline, "WADA Rules Must Change." Sadly, Nash couldn't save Rubi, but she told the Associated Press, "I would not have cared for my dog in any different way."

DISCUSSION

1. What are your thoughts on Katerina Nash's story?
2. Do you think doping will ever be fully eliminated from professional sport?
3. Have any celebrities or athletes from your country been caught using drugs?
4. Do you think athletes who are found to be doping should be banned from professional sports for life?
5. Would you say that illegal drugs are a major problem in your country?