

THE EXPERIMENT

Some trainers believe that good feeding alone can produce a dog in peak performance. The fact that John Kohnke developed the Sprinter Gold range suggests he does not agree.

The problem is – how can you tell if a product, or combination of products is working? Given the fluctuations in track conditions, race collisions, and swings in form, it might seem an impossible task.

Not necessarily.

What happens if the subjects of your experiments are a couple of greyhounds with dozens of races to their names?

Although you might not be able to assess one race, over a period of three or four, you should be able to spot some variation – providing there is some to be found.

WHY TOMMY?

We decided to ask Irish handler Tommy Bolton to choose two experienced racers from his range of 18 runners, and to add the Sprinter Gold products to their diet for at least a month.

We chose Tommy for two reasons.

- 1) He is an experienced dog man who finished at no.4 on the Irish trainers list in 2010.
- 2) Tommy was one of the 'supplement sceptics' as he explains below.

WHICH DOGS?

It would have been easy to select two young racers for the experiment, but since they might have shown natural improvement anyway, it would have proved very little.

We needed two experienced campaigners who might have been expected to have already shown their best ever form. Could Sprinters Gold roll back the years to help them return to the peak of their racing career?

The dogs selected by Tommy were Ballymac Barrell, a December '08 whelp with over 40 races on his card when the trial started, and Rockabilly Magic, a seasoned July '08 whelp.

TOMMY'S VIEW

'Kim Sanzone contacted me and asked me to try the new Kohnke products on a couple of seasoned dogs. To be honest, I haven't used any vitamins or supplements for the last 5 years as I feel that I give my dogs everything they need with the feeding & exercise routine I use but agreed to try them as a favour to Kim as she is a friend.'



by trialling the products. Ballymac Barrell ran on 15th September clocking a 1.91 sectional at Shelbourne Park – the fastest of the year and his best split ever.

Rockabilly Magic ran on 27th September at Harolds Cross clocking a career best at the track of 28.91 – a full 31 spots faster

than he had ever gone over the distance there before – exceptional improvement for a dog with over 70 races on his card.

'To say I am delighted is an understatement, I truly believed that greyhounds fed & exercised correctly needed nothing else. I was also amazed at how many people commented on how well my dogs were looking – one even said Magic looked as though he could run round again as the race had took nothing out of him. I have just ordered more of the ACE, Energy E & Muscle Pro from Kim as I like the 3 products used together – they certainly work for me and my dogs and I'm so glad I agreed to try them out.'

ADDITIONAL INFO

The above statement was made in early October. Since then, **Ballymac Barrell has been trapping even quicker and produced the fastest sectional ever recorded by any greyhound in a race at Shelbourne Park (1.90). He also recorded his fastest ever 525 yard time (28.72).**

Although beaten in his following races, Rockabilly Magic has recorded his best ever 575y time.

Unsurprisingly, given what has happened, Tommy didn't wait for the experiment to end. He immediately put another dozen of his racing dogs on the Sprinters Gold range of products.

Some were young, and likely to improve anyway, like **Peppered Chilli, who recorded the fastest time of her career (29.17 Harolds X).**

But they also included the €1,100 internet buy Georgie Beau who finished third in his semi of the Irish Puppy Derby Plate clocking an impressive 3.07 split in the process – a full length and a half faster than eventual Puppy Derby winner Sparta Maestro's sectional of 3.18 recorded on the same night.

Then there was **Aranock Hand (Dec '07), a grand old servant who clocked one of the fastest 550's of his career in his 74th race.**