

# Hot Weather Policy



**Effective Date** 12 December 2016

**Purpose**

To outline when GRV Racing Operations will declare that a venue is 'hot weather affected'.

To provide requirements for all racing and trialling activity at venues that have been declared 'hot weather affected'

To ensure the welfare of greyhounds during transportation, at race meetings and trial sessions in hot weather conditions on days that are 'hot weather affected'.

**Scope**

All participants, transporters engaged by participants, GRV and Club officials must comply with the requirements in this policy.

**Related Policies**

The GRV Transportation of Greyhounds Policy applies for all transportation of greyhounds including on hot weather affected days.

## Policy

**Policy Principles**

The welfare of the greyhound always comes before travelling, racing and trialling endeavours.

Adherence to the requirements in this policy will assist in minimising the potential for heat stress in greyhounds transported, raced or trialled on 'hot weather affected' days.

For the purpose of this policy the:

- **venue** is the location where a race meeting, qualifying trial or an after race trial session ('**event**') is scheduled to be held.
- **scheduled day** is the day that the event is scheduled to be held.
- **forecast maximum temperature** is the highest temperature forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for the venue at any time on the scheduled day.

All decisions will take into account both the time of the scheduled event plus **Travel Time**, which altogether covers the period from 3 hours prior to the first race, until 2 hours after the last race.

<p><b>Declaring a 'hot weather affected' day</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GRV Racing Operations will check the temperature forecast for the venue regularly in the week prior to a scheduled event including between 8.00 am and 3.00 pm on the day before the scheduled day. Ideally the last check should be no less than 24 hours prior to the first race on the scheduled day.</li> <li>2. GRV will declare a venue to be 'hot weather affected' if the <b>forecast maximum temperature</b> is 32°C or higher at the venue at any time on the scheduled day (regardless of the time the event is due to start and finish).</li> <li>3. Once a venue has been declared by GRV to be 'hot weather affected', the venue will remain 'hot weather affected' regardless of any change to forecast temperature or actual temperature on the day.</li> </ol>
<p><b>GRV options on 'hot weather affected' days:</b></p> <p><b>32-35°C</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Where the <b>forecast maximum temperature</b> for the venue for the scheduled day is between <b>32-35°C</b>, GRV may: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. continue with the race meeting, qualifying trial or after race trial session consistent with requirements set out in this policy; or</li> <li>b. reschedule or change the venue of the scheduled race meeting; or</li> <li>c. postpone the scheduled race meeting; or</li> <li>d. cancel the scheduled race meeting.</li> </ol> <p>The decision to continue should take into account both the time of the scheduled event plus <b>Travel Time</b>, which altogether covers the period from 3 hours prior to the first race, until 2 hours after the last race.</p> </li> </ol>
<p><b>GRV options on 'hot weather affected' days:</b></p> <p><b>35-38°C</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Where the <b>forecast maximum temperature</b> for the venue for the scheduled day is between <b>35-38°C</b>, GRV may: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. continue with the race meeting, qualifying trial or after race trial session consistent with requirements set out in this policy; or</li> <li>b. reschedule the meeting to be conducted in a morning or evening timeslot; or</li> <li>c. change the venue of the scheduled race meeting; or</li> <li>d. postpone the scheduled race meeting; or</li> <li>e. cancel the scheduled race meeting.</li> </ol> <p>The decision to continue should take into account both the time of the scheduled event plus <b>Travel Time</b>, which altogether covers the period from 3 hours prior to the first race, until 2 hours after the last race.</p> </li> </ol>
<p><b>GRV options on 'hot weather affected' days:</b></p> <p><b>38°C or higher</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Where the <b>forecast maximum temperature</b> for the venue for the scheduled day is <b>38°C or higher</b> GRV will either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. postpone the scheduled race meeting; or</li> <li>b. cancel the scheduled race meeting.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Participant requirements on all</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Participants must only transport greyhounds according to the GRV Transportation of Greyhounds Policy.</li> </ol>

<p><b>'hot weather affected' days</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Participants must not use barking muzzles on greyhounds at any time.</li> <li>9. Participants must seek veterinary advice immediately if their greyhounds show signs of heat stress at any time.</li> <li>10. Participants are permitted to use cooling vests on their greyhounds at any time prior to racing or trialling.</li> <li>11. Participants must offer water to their greyhounds upon arrival at the race track and then proceed to kennel the greyhounds as soon as possible.</li> <li>12. Participants must immediately refer any greyhound to the on-track veterinarian (OTV) to be examined if they observe that greyhound to be passing dark or red coloured urine.</li> <li>13. Participants must offer drinking water to a greyhound, without forcing it to drink, upon retrieval from its kennel before its race or trial under the supervision of a Steward-nominated Club official.</li> <li>14. Racing greyhounds must proceed to the boxes without being paraded.</li> <li>15. Participants must offer drinking water to greyhounds immediately after racing, or trialling without forcing them to drink.</li> <li>16. Greyhounds must be directed to the nearest hosing or wash-down bay immediately after the trial or race, without being paraded. Participants must hose down the greyhound immediately to thoroughly wet the feet, chest, head, neck, back and groin areas. Excess water must be removed from the greyhound afterwards.</li> <li>17. Participants must re-kennel their greyhounds for a minimum of 15 minutes after their race or trial before preparing to leave the racetrack.</li> <li>18. Veterinary advice must be sought if a greyhound is showing signs of heat stress or other abnormalities. Potential indicators of heat stress are: dehydration, panting, skin feeling warm, fast heart rate and pulse, drooling, red gums, muscle tremors and seizures. If there is any doubt as to whether or not a greyhound is suffering from heat stress, participants must consult with the OTV as soon as symptoms present.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Scratchings on 'hot weather affected' days</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. If a venue has been declared 'hot weather affected', a stand down penalty will not be applied to any nominated greyhound withdrawn from racing at that race meeting, if the greyhound's withdrawal is notified to the GRV Member Services Department by telephone between 8.00 am the day before the meeting up until the appointed scratching time for the meeting.</li> <li>20. Any greyhound withdrawn after the official scratching time due to heat stress must complete a 10-day period of prohibition before its next race event in accordance with Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 23(4). Stewards will require a veterinary certificate before accepting any future nominations for the greyhound in accordance to GAR 20(3)(v).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Payments for cancelled races</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Where GRV has cancelled a race meeting GRV will pay the Travel and Starter's fee due to participants for the cancelled race meeting.</li> </ol>

<b>Club Requirements</b>	<p>22. Clubs must fit all kennel areas with temperature and humidity loggers that simultaneously measure and record temperature and humidity readings.</p> <p>23. All Club air conditioning systems must be functional and serviced at least annually before the month of October.</p> <p>24. Clubs must activate the air conditioning system in the trial and race kennels at least three hours before kennel opening time.</p> <p>25. Clubs must aim to keep the ambient temperature in the kennels between 18 to 24°C.</p> <p>26. Clubs must open kennels 30 minutes earlier than the standard time of opening for twilight and night race meetings.</p>
<b>Steward Requirements and Decisions</b>	<p>27. Stewards must record the kennel area temperature at the time of kennelling and immediately prior to each race when the greyhounds are retrieved.</p> <p>28. Stewards will abandon or postpone the remainder of a race meeting if the temperature in the race kennel block reaches 26°C and cannot be reduced promptly.</p> <p>29. Stewards will, in consultation with the On Track Veterinarian (OTV), abandon the remainder of the race meeting if the ambient temperature at the race track reaches or exceeds 38°C, and is not forecast to decrease in a period of two race times or shorter.</p> <p>30. GRV may postpone or abandon the meeting at any time due to any circumstances that adversely affect the meeting including weather conditions or animal welfare concerns (GAR 57(4)).</p> <p>31. Where the actual temperature on or after the start time for the first race on the day of the racing or trialling activity is significantly lower than 32°C, the Steward in Charge may, at the Stewards discretion, relax or dispense with any of the additional race meeting requirements for hot weather affected days set out in this policy.</p>
<b>Trialling on 'hot weather affected' days</b>	<p>32. Trialling must not occur at any time when the ambient temperature at the track reaches or exceeds 38°C.</p> <p>33. A Club will cancel or postpone a non-race day trial sessions when the forecasted maximum temperature, checked between 3.00 pm on the day before the trial up until the start of the trial, for the venue is 38°C or higher.</p> <p>34. Clubs must abandon all qualifying and after race trial sessions if the temperature in the trial kennel area reaches 26°C and cannot be reduced promptly.</p> <p>35. Where a venue has been declared hot weather affected, trials may only occur after twilight and night race meetings.</p> <p>36. Greyhounds can only be trialled after race meetings if the greyhound has been booked into air-conditioned trial kennels at the Club.</p> <p>37. For race tracks with no air-conditioned trial kennels, greyhounds nominated for after-race trials must not arrive at the track earlier than the scheduled time of the second last race on a hot weather affected day.</p>