

# Transportation of Greyhounds Policy



Department	Animal Welfare
Responsible GRV General Manager	General Manager - Animal Welfare
Date of GRV Board Approval	
Effective Date	
Review	This policy will be reviewed annually, or earlier if planned research indicates it is appropriate to amend the policy earlier.
Review date	17 September 2018

Purpose	<p>To ensure the safety and welfare of racing greyhounds while they are being transported by land.</p> <p>To ensure that persons responsible for the care and management of greyhounds at all stages of land transport are identified and are aware of their responsibilities while transporting greyhounds, and are accountable for their actions during this process</p> <p>Adherence to the requirements of this policy will help to ensure that greyhound transport and/or travel related stress is minimised, and the risk of illness or injury during transport is low, resulting in greyhounds arriving at their destination in the best possible condition.</p>
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Scope	<p>This policy applies to the land transportation of all registered greyhounds.</p> <p>All Registered Participants must comply with the requirements of this policy. If a Registered Participant engages another person to transport greyhounds, the Registered Participant is responsible for ensuring that person or persons complies with this policy.</p>
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Related Policies and Legislation	<p>GRV Hot Weather Policy</p> <p>The <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986</i></p>
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Definitions	<p><b>Air-conditioning</b> means a power-assisted system that continuously circulates air for the purpose of controlling humidity and ventilation, and maintains the internal vehicle or trailer temperature below 32°C.</p> <p><b>Hot weather affected journey</b> means a journey where, at any point along the intended route, including the location the transport begins, the location of the scheduled rest stops, and the final destination at the end of the journey, the official Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasted maximum temperature is 32°C or higher at any time on the day of the journey.</p>
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**Cold weather affected journey** means a journey where, at any point along the intended route, including the location the transport begins, the location of the scheduled rest stops, and the final destination at the end of the journey, the official Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasted minimum temperature is 10°C or lower at any time on the day of the journey.

Policy	
<b>Policy Principles</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Registered Participants must ensure that greyhounds are transported in a safe, clean and supervised environment.</li> <li>2. Greyhounds must be transported under the care and management of a Registered Participant, or a person engaged in writing by a Registered Participant, who undertakes to comply with this policy. This person will be in control of the greyhound during transportation.</li> <li>3. The Registered Participant must ensure that any person they engage to transport a greyhound they are responsible for can comply with this policy and has the capacity to be responsible for the safety and welfare of the greyhound during transport.</li> </ol>
<b>Standards for trailers and vehicles used to transport greyhounds</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Trailers and transport vehicles used to transport a greyhound must be appropriately registered, and vehicle drivers must be appropriately licensed, to the requirements of Vic Roads (<a href="https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au">https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au</a>) or an equivalent state transport agency as required by law.</li> <li>5. Trailers and transport vehicles must be constructed of materials and design that prevents escape and minimises the risk of injury to greyhounds. Trailers and transport vehicles must be clean, weatherproof and have adequate and functioning ventilation or air-conditioning. If used on hot weather affected journeys (see clause 15) trailers and vehicles must have adequate and functioning air-conditioning. It is recommended that a thermometer or temperature logger is fitted and used to monitor internal temperatures on all journeys where high or low temperatures are anticipated.</li> <li>6. Barriers, compartments, cages and/or other items used for transport must be securely fitted in vehicles and trailers, and must be checked for any defects, protrusions or sharp edges that may cause harm or discomfort to the greyhound, prior to transportation.</li> <li>7. The surface on which greyhounds are transported must be non-slip, weight bearing, and able to be effectively cleaned and disinfected.</li> <li>8. Doors, latches and hinges must be in working order and securely fixed to the frame. Doors must have a latching mechanism that prevents the possibility of being opened from inside or from any other inadvertent opening. It is preferable that the doors are lockable or can be secured externally by way of a pin/bolt that prevents opening.</li> <li>9. Trailers must have secure means of attaching to a vehicle to prevent separation during travelling as required by law.</li> </ol>

	<p>10. Space provided during transport must allow for each greyhound to sit, lie down and turn around and stand in a natural position without making contact with overhead structures.</p> <p>11. Greyhounds must be individually restrained during transport and must be able to be physically separated if required. Greyhound puppies under 16 weeks of age may be transported together. Greyhound puppies under 16 weeks of age being transported together must be transported in a compartment, enclosure or cage that is sufficiently large enough for all puppies to lie fully stretched out.</p> <p>12. Greyhounds must be safely restrained to avoid distracting the driver or causing injury to themselves and/or other occupants, both human and other greyhounds.</p> <p>13. Greyhounds must not be transported in the boot of a sedan, or on the open tray of a vehicle or a trailer.</p> <p>14. Appropriate comfortable beds or bedding material, that can be cleaned and disinfected or completely discarded, must be provided.</p>
<b>Travel with greyhounds during hot weather</b>	<p>15. During hot weather affected journeys, greyhounds must be transported in air-conditioned vehicles and/or trailers.</p> <p>16. The internal temperature of the vehicle or trailer must be maintained at 32°C or lower (the recommended temperature range is between 16°C and 24°C).</p>
<b>Travel with greyhounds during cold weather</b>	<p>17. During cold weather affected journeys, greyhounds must be provided with warm bedding.</p> <p>18. During cold weather affected journeys, participants must carry sufficient dog coats to enable rugging of greyhounds should they show signs of cold stress, such as shivering. Greyhounds must be rugged if they are showing signs of cold stress.</p>
<b>Barking muzzles</b>	<p>19. Barking muzzles must not be used on greyhounds at any time during transportation if the journey is hot weather affected.</p>
<b>Planning and managing a journey</b>	<p>20. When planning journeys, the person in control of the greyhound must ensure that they have given adequate consideration to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the number of greyhounds being transported;</li> <li>(b) the physical condition of each travelling greyhound including any health issues or injuries;</li> <li>(c) the weather and road conditions anticipated during the journey (also see clause 15);</li> <li>(d) the length of the journey;</li> <li>(e) the time that greyhounds will be deprived of food and water, carefully planning rest stops in advance (see clause 21);</li> </ul>

	<p>(f) emergency management including access to a veterinarian should a greyhound become seriously ill or injured during transportation.</p> <p>21. On hot weather affected journeys, greyhounds must be inspected every two (2) hours during the journey, and if required provided with the opportunity for exercise, toileting and water/fluid consumption. On all other journeys (i.e. if clause 15 does not apply), greyhounds must be inspected every three (3) hours during the journey, and if required provided with the opportunity for exercise, toileting and water/fluid consumption. Where it is necessary to stop the vehicle to inspect the greyhounds, stops must be pre-planned to identify safe locations.</p> <p>22. Greyhounds must not be left unattended in a stationary vehicle or trailer for any period exceeding 20 minutes, except on a hot weather affected day (as specified in the GRV Hot Weather Policy) where greyhounds must not be left unattended for more than 5 minutes. Unattended is defined as the greyhound not being visually checked to ascertain its physical state.</p> <p>23. Vehicles and trailers must not be used as overnight housing for greyhounds except in exceptional circumstances as notified to, and approved by, a GRV Steward, GRV Veterinarian or GRV Authorised Officer.</p>
<p><b>Additional animal welfare requirements</b></p>	<p>24. Collars and leads used must not cause any discomfort or injury to the greyhound.</p> <p>25. If cooling rugs, vests or jackets are used, they must be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations to maximise their effectiveness.</p> <p>26. Veterinary advice must be sought if a greyhound is showing signs of heat stress, hypothermia (abnormally low body temperature) or other abnormalities, and veterinary treatment must be sought immediately if required.</p> <p>(a) Signs of heat stress and dehydration can include panting, skin feeling warm, fast heart rate and pulse, drooling, red gums, muscle tremors and seizures.</p> <p>(b) Signs of hypothermia can include shivering, skin feeling cold, slow heart rate and pulse, pale gums and non-responsiveness (coma).</p>