



INFORMATION SHEET – HOT WEATHER TRANSPORT

UPDATED: Thursday, 19 December 2019

Hot Weather Transport - what does it mean for me?

The GRV Transportation of Greyhounds Policy requires GRV greyhounds to be transported in **air-conditioned vehicles and/or trailers** if at any point along the intended route the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecasted maximum temperature is 32°C or higher at any time on the day of the journey (“**hot weather affected journey**”).

The policy applies to any transport of GRV greyhounds, not just transport to race meetings or on race days.

Air-conditioning 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.

The internal temperature of the vehicle or trailer must be maintained at 32°C or lower.

On 14 December 2019 the Minister for Agriculture released new regulations for the transportation of animals in Victoria (*Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019*) (POCTA Regulations). These regulations impact on *ALL Victorians* including participants of Greyhound Racing.

The POCTA Regulations require:

“The surface on which greyhounds are transported must be non-slip, weight bearing, and able to be effectively cleaned and disinfected. On days where the ambient temperature is 28°C or above, greyhounds must not be placed directly onto the floor of a metal trailer or metal vehicle surface. A layer of insulating material must be provided to protect the greyhound from contact with the metal floor.”

And

*“A greyhound left unattended in a stationary vehicle or trailer **must be managed as follows:***

- (a) when the ambient temperature is below 28°C, the greyhound must be checked at least every 20 minutes;*
- (b) when the ambient temperature is 28°C to 31.9°C, the greyhound must be checked at least every 10 minutes;*
- (c) when the ambient temperature is 32°C or above (i.e. a hot weather affected journey), the greyhound must be checked at least every 10 minutes and the air-conditioning must be running in the vehicle or trailer at all times.*

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Unattended is defined as the greyhound not being visually checked to ascertain its physical state.”

Further requirements 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.
- Barking muzzles must not be used on greyhounds at any time during transportation.

Hot weather affected journey means: the entire journey where, at any point along the intended route, including the location the journey begins, the location of the scheduled stops (including at a race track) and the location the journey ends, the official Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasted maximum temperature is 32°C or higher at any time on the day of the journey.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What does air- conditioning mean?

Air-conditioning 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.

The air-conditioning system may be either refrigerated or evaporative cooling. Most importantly, the air-conditioning system must be able to control the humidity, ventilation and temperature within the transport vehicle. It is essential that the system is power assisted to ensure that there is a continuous air-flow and control when the vehicle is in motion and stationary.

When is air-conditioning required?

Air-conditioning is required when transporting GRV greyhounds on any hot weather affected journey (as defined on page 1 of this information sheet).

Why is air-conditioning required on hot weather affected journeys?

It is essential for greyhound health and welfare that greyhounds are transported in vehicles and trailers where the internal temperature is below 32°C. There is a high risk of heat related illness in greyhounds if the temperature during transport exceeds 32°C. Research shows that in hot weather, air-conditioning is required to achieve this internal temperature.

It is also important to remember that greyhounds use a lot of energy to cool their bodies when the temperature is above 32°C. If your greyhound is too hot during transport, it may use up important energy keeping cool, reducing its ability to race well may be compromised.

It is recommended that participants have a functioning thermometer fitted to the inside of the trailer to enable the temperature to be accurately monitored.

What is the difference between a hot weather affected day (event) and a hot weather affected journey?

A “**hot weather affected day**” (as defined by the Hot Weather Policy) relates to a race meeting, qualifying trial or an after-race trial session that has been declared by GRV to be hot weather affected in accordance with the GRV Hot Weather Policy. GRV will declare a venue

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to be hot weather affected if the forecast maximum temperature is 32°C or higher at the venue at any time on the scheduled day (regardless of the time the meeting is due to start and finish). If a venue has been declared as hot weather affected, a stand down penalty will not be applied to any nominated greyhound scratched from that race meeting when within the scratching timeframe. The greyhound's scratching must be lodged via FastTrack or to Racing Services via telephone.

A **“hot weather affected journey”** (as defined by the Transportation of Greyhounds Policy) relates to the transportation of GRV greyhounds on any day (not just transportation to racing meetings or other racing events) where at any point along the intended route, the official Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasted maximum temperature is 32°C or higher at any time on the day of the journey. A hot weather affected journey may occur on a day that is not a GRV declared hot weather affected day. As such, participants must check the temperature forecasted for every planned journey with greyhounds, not just race days.

What happens if a race is on a day when the journey is hot weather affected and I don't have access to an air-conditioned transport?

Participants must not transport any greyhound in a vehicle or trailer without air-conditioning on a hot weather affected journey. If your car or van is air-conditioned but the trailer is not air-conditioned, you can still transport your greyhounds to the race in the car or van. However, you will need to think about space. According to the Transportation of Greyhounds Policy, each greyhound must have enough room to sit, lie down and turn around and stand in a natural position without making contact with overhead structures. Additionally, greyhounds over 16 weeks of age must be individually restrained during transport and must be able to be physically separated in the event the greyhounds do not get along. Therefore, you may need to choose which greyhounds you transport in your car/van and which you will scratch.

If a venue has been declared as hot weather affected, a stand down penalty will not be applied to any nominated greyhound scratched from that race meeting when within the scratching timeframe. The greyhound's scratching must be lodged via FastTrack or to Racing Services via telephone.