



Hot Weather Transport - what do I need to know?

A **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.

The GRV Transport Policy requires GRV greyhounds to be transported in **air-conditioned vehicles and/or trailers** for all **hot weather affected journey**. **The Policy also requires the internal temperature of any transport vehicle to be maintained at below 30°C with the use of air-conditioning.** This requires participants to start their air-conditioning at least half an hour before loading greyhounds for transport and keep their air-conditioning running **at all times** when the greyhounds are in the transport vehicle – even when driving!

Air-conditioning means a power-assisted system that continuously circulates air for the purpose of controlling humidity and ventilation, and to maintain the internal temperature of the vehicle or trailer **below 30°C**.

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 greyhound racing participants and have been incorporated into the Transport Policy.

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.

On days when 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 (bedding or mat) must be provided to project the greyhound from contact with the metal floor.

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 to maintain the internal temperature of the vehicle or trailer below 30°C.

The air-conditioning 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 airflow 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 30°C. There is a high risk of heat related illness in greyhounds if the temperature during transport exceeds 30°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 24°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 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).

A **“hot weather affected journey”** (as defined by the Transport 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 Transport 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.