



INFORMATION SHEET – HOT WEATHER

UPDATED: Tuesday, 17 October 2023

The **GRV Hot Weather Policy** is designed to minimise the potential for heat stress on a ‘**hot weather affected day**’ and safeguard the welfare of all greyhounds in hot weather.

A **hot weather affected day** is a day where the maximum temperature at the venue at any time on the scheduled day of a meeting (regardless of the time the meeting is due to start and finish) is forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to be 32°C or higher. Once declared to be hot weather affected, the venue will remain as such regardless of any change to forecast temperature or actual temperature on the day.

The GRV Racing Department is responsible for declaring a race meeting or event “hot weather affected”. When a day is declared hot weather affected, meetings may be:

- rescheduled to another time on the scheduled day or another day,
- transferred to a different venue or cancelled.

This decision takes account of the scheduled time of the meeting, travel time and the hot weather requirements of the **GRV Transport Policy**.

What are your obligations as a registered person on a hot weather affected day?

There are a number of requirements that apply as a registered person on a hot weather affected day:

- greyhounds must only be transported in compliance with the **GRV Transport Policy**;
- barking muzzles must not be used on any greyhounds at the venue at any time on a hot weather affected day;
- when arriving at a venue, greyhounds must be offered drinking water (without forcing it to drink) before proceeding to the kennel;
- prior to an event, greyhounds must proceed directly to the starting boxes without being paraded;
- immediately after the greyhound has competed in its event, it must be taken to nearest hosing or wash-down bay, without being paraded; offered drinking water (without forcing it to drink) and hosed down (with excess water removed immediately afterwards);
- cooling vests can be used at any time prior to or after racing or trialling (every club has a set of eight available if requested);

- a greyhound must remain on course, close to, and preferably inside, the kennel block for a minimum of 15 minutes after their race or trial, to allow them to cool down;
- veterinary advice must immediately be sought if the greyhound is showing signs of heat stress, passing dark or red coloured urine, or exhibiting any other abnormalities.

The Club is also required to keep the kennels airconditioned, and where the event is declared hot weather affected, the kennels must be kept between 16°C and 24°C. This applies to trial days as well.

The GRV Hot Weather Policy also prohibits the running of a race when the ambient temperature at a venue is 38°C or above. Weather stations have been installed at all clubs and will be monitored by Stewards during a race event.

Please note that on a hot weather affected day, kennelling opens 30 minutes earlier than normal.

How does scratching operate when a venue is declared hot weather affected?

If a venue has been declared hot weather affected **prior** to the appointed scratching time for that meeting, a stand down penalty will not be applied to any nominated greyhound withdrawn (due to the hot weather) from racing at that meeting, if the greyhound's withdrawal is notified to GRV via FastTrack or to Racing Services and Registrations between the time the meeting is declared hot weather affected and the appointed scratching time for the meeting.

It is deemed a breach of the **Hot Weather Policy** for a registered person to take advantage of penalty-free scratching by falsely scratching a greyhound due to hot weather when the true reason is something else. This might include, but is not limited, to injury, illness, seasonal, unfavourable box draw and insufficient air-conditioned transport. GRV will monitor scratchings and identify trainers or participants who breach this policy.

If a venue has been declared hot weather affected **after** the appointed scratching time for that meeting, the Stewards may, at their discretion, waive the stand down penalty for any nominated greyhound withdrawn (due to the hot weather) from racing at that meeting, if the greyhound's withdrawal is notified to Stewards between the time the meeting is declared hot weather affected up until the close of kennelling.

What about trialling at meetings that have been declare hot weather affected?

Where a meeting has been declared hot weather affected, trials may only occur after twilight and night meetings. Trialling must not occur at any time when the ambient temperature at the venue reaches 38°C or higher.

For venues with air-conditioned trial kennels, greyhounds can only be trialled after meetings if the greyhound has been booked into and is kennelled in the air-conditioned trial kennels during the race meeting. If the air-conditioned trial kennels are unavailable, greyhounds booked in for after-race trials must not arrive at the venue any earlier than the scheduled time of the second last race on a hot weather affected day.

What about non-race day trialling at meetings in hot weather?

In order to protect the welfare of the greyhounds at the venue, where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue on the scheduled day of non-race day trialling is:

- between 32°C - 37.9°C during the proposed trial session, the Club must reschedule to another time on the scheduled day or another day, or cancel;
- 38°C or higher during the proposed trial session, the Club must cancel or re-schedule the trial sessions.

Air-conditioned kennels **MUST** be utilised by Clubs for non-race day trials where the ambient temperature is 32°C or above.