

Transport Policy

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Transport Policy

Purpose

To ensure the safety and welfare of racing greyhounds while they are being transported by land.

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.

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.

Scope

This policy applies to the land transportation of all registered greyhounds.

All Registered Persons must comply with the requirements of this policy. If a Registered Person engages another person (registered or not) to transport greyhounds, the Registered Person is responsible for ensuring that person or persons complies with this policy.

A breach of this policy is a breach of the Rules of Racing.

Definitions

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

Hot weather-affected journey means a journey 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.

Cold weather-affected journey means the entire journey where, at any point along the intended route, the official Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasted minimum temperature is 10°C or lower at any time on the day of the journey.



Policy

Policy Principles

1. Registered Persons must ensure that greyhounds are transported in a safe, clean and supervised environment.
2. Greyhounds must be transported under the care and management of a Registered Person, or a person engaged in writing by a Registered Person.
3. The Registered Person must ensure that any person they engage to transport a greyhound can comply with this policy and has the capacity to be responsible for the safety and welfare of the greyhound during transport.

Standards for trailers and vehicles used to transport greyhounds

4. Trailers and transport vehicles used to transport a greyhound must be roadworthy and appropriately registered to the requirements of VicRoads¹ or an equivalent state transport agency.
5. Vehicle drivers must be appropriately licensed in accordance with VicRoads or an equivalent state transport agency.
6. Trailers and transport vehicles must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that prevents escape and minimises the risk of injury to greyhounds.
 - a. Trailers and transport vehicles must be clean, weatherproof (providing protection from wind, rain and direct sunlight at all times when greyhounds are confined within) and have adequate and functioning ventilation.
 - b. Appropriate comfortable beds or bedding materials that can be cleaned and disinfected or completely discarded, must be provided in transport compartments.
 - c. Where clause 15 applies, trailers and vehicles must have adequate and functioning air-conditioning².
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Doors, latches and hinges of all berths must be in working order and securely

¹ See <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au>

² It is strongly 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.



fixed to the frame, even if not being used to transport greyhounds. 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.

10. Trailers must have secure means of attaching to a vehicle to prevent separation during travelling as required by law.
11. 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.
12. Greyhounds must be individually restrained during transport and must be able to be physically separated if required. Greyhounds must be safely restrained to avoid distracting the driver or causing injury to themselves and/or other occupants, both human and other greyhounds.
13. 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.
14. Greyhounds must not be transported in the boot of a sedan, or on the open tray of a vehicle or a trailer whether or not the tray has raised sides or greyhound is in a cage or transport crate.

Travel with greyhounds during hot weather

15. During hot weather affected journeys, greyhounds must be transported in air-conditioned vehicles and/or trailers. For the avoidance of doubt, the air-conditioning must always be operating while greyhounds are in the vehicle or trailer, including while the vehicle and/or trailer is moving and may need to be turned on at least 30 minutes prior to loading greyhounds.
16. The internal temperature of the vehicle or trailer must be maintained at or below 30°C.³

Travel with greyhounds during cold weather

17. During cold weather affected journeys, greyhounds must be provided with warm bedding.
18. During cold weather affected journeys, Registered Persons must carry sufficient dog coats to enable rugging of greyhounds should they show signs of cold stress, such as shivering.⁴

³ The internal temperature of the vehicle or trailer should be between 16°C and 24°C, especially when transporting greyhounds after trialling or racing.

⁴ Greyhounds should be rugged if the internal temperature of the transport vehicle remains or is likely to remain below 10°C. Greyhounds must be rugged if they are showing signs of cold stress.



Barking muzzles

19. Barking muzzles must not be used on greyhounds at any time during transportation.

Planning and managing a journey

20. When planning journeys, the Registered Person must ensure that they have given adequate consideration to the following:
- the forecast temperature as per the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and any emergency warnings (Emergency Vic) for the destination and all areas passed through during the journey (also see clause 15);
 - the number of greyhounds being transported;
 - the physical condition of each travelling greyhound including any health issues or injuries;
 - the road conditions anticipated during the journey;
 - the length of the journey;
 - the time that greyhounds will be deprived of food and water, carefully planning rest stops in advance (see clause 21);
 - emergency management including access to a veterinarian should a greyhound become seriously ill or injured during transportation.
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.
22. 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.
23. A greyhound left unattended in a stationary vehicle or trailer must be managed as follows:
- when the ambient temperature is below 28°C, the greyhound must be checked at least every 20 minutes;
 - when the ambient temperature is 28°C to 31.9°C, the greyhound must be checked at least every 10 minutes; and
 - 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.

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

24. 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. The forms required to obtain approval for housing greyhounds overnight in a stationary transport vehicle are included at Attachments 1 and 2.

Additional animal welfare requirements

- 25. Collars and leads used must not cause any discomfort or injury to the greyhound.
- 26. If cooling rugs, vests or jackets are used, they must be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations to maximise their effectiveness.
- 27. Veterinary advice must be sought if a greyhound is showing signs of heat stress⁵, hypothermia⁶ (abnormally low body temperature) or other abnormalities, and veterinary treatment must be sought immediately if required.

⁵ Signs of heat stress and dehydration can include panting, skin feeling warm, fast heart rate and pulse, drooling, red gums, muscle tremors and seizures.

⁶ Signs of hypothermia can include shivering, skin feeling cold, slow heart rate and pulse, pale gums and non-responsiveness (coma).



Attachment 1 - Self-Assessment Form: Temporary Overnight Accommodation of Greyhounds in a Stationary Transportation Vehicle (1-2 nights)

This form must be completed by the Registered Person in control if they are temporarily accommodating greyhounds in a stationary transport vehicle away from the usual kennel address for **one (1) night or two (2) consecutive nights**.

This completed form must be submitted to the Greyhound Welfare and Rehoming Department within (7) business days after travel. Please submit this application form to welfare@grv.org.au.

NOTE: If temporary accommodation in a transport vehicle or trailer is required for three (3) or more consecutive nights, Registered Participants must make an application to GRV at least three (3) Business Days prior to travel and gain approval using the application form at Attachment 2.

REGISTERED PERSON DETAILS (owner or trainer)

Participant full name:	Member number:
Kennel address:	Contact phone number(s): ** This must be the number you can be contact on both before and during your journey
Contact email address:	

PERSON TRAVELLING WITH AND IN CONTROL OF GREYHOUND(S) (if not the owner or trainer)

Name:	Contact phone number:
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OVERNIGHT ADDRESS

Night 1: (date)	Night 2: (date)
Overnight venue: Street: Town / Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____ Forecast overnight temp: ____ °C Other amenities (tick): ☐ Water and shade available ☐ Suitable parking ☐ Clear entry and exit access	Overnight venue: Street: Town / Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____ Forecast overnight temp: ____ °C Other amenities (tick): ☐ Water and shade available ☐ Suitable parking ☐ Clear entry and exit access



☐ Suitable toileting area	☐ Suitable toileting area
☐ Local 24-hour veterinary clinic	☐ Local 24-hour veterinary clinic

GREYHOUND DETAILS

All details for each greyhound must be completed.

Greyhound name	Ear brand	Activity	Transport Vehicle Type	Individual Compartment Y/N

Self-Assessment Criteria	Yes	No
<i>If you select "No" to any of the below criteria, you must contact the GRV Greyhound Welfare and Rehoming Department prior to travel.</i>		
<i>Vehicle will not be parked at usual kennel address</i>		
<i>Overnight venues suitable for parking transport vehicle (i.e. a safe place that is not the side of the road)</i>		
<i>Water is available at the overnight venue</i>		
<i>Suitable area for toileting at overnight venue</i>		
<i>If overnight temperature is forecast to be 31°C or higher, does the vehicle have power assisted air-conditioning for use when the vehicle is stationary? And will there be access to power at the venue?</i>		
<i>If overnight temperature 10°C or lower, rugs are available for all greyhounds</i>		
<i>Transport vehicle has adequate ventilation</i>		
<i>Vehicle suitable for number of greyhounds and offers individual compartments</i>		
<i>Individual compartments are suitable for greyhounds to sleep overnight</i>		
<i>Veterinary care is available within vicinity of venue</i>		
<i>All greyhounds racing/coursing are cleared to race/course</i>		



Attachment 2 - Application Form: Temporary Overnight Accommodation of Greyhounds in a Stationary Transportation Vehicle (3 or more consecutive nights)

This form must be completed by the Registered Person in control if they are temporarily accommodating greyhounds in a stationary transport vehicle away from the usual kennel address for **three (3) or more consecutive nights**.

This application must be submitted to the Greyhound Welfare and Rehoming Department no less than three (3) business days prior to commencement of the journey. **Please submit this application form to welfare@grv.org.au.**

REGISTERED PERSON DETAILS *(owner or trainer)*

Participant full name:	Member number:
Kennel address:	Contact phone number(s): ** This must be the number you can be contact on both before and during your journey
Contact email address:	

PERSON TRAVELLING WITH AND IN CONTROL OF GREYHOUND(S) *(if not the owner or trainer)*

Name:	Contact phone number:
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JOURNEY DETAILS

Dates of travel: From _____ to _____	Total number of days: _____
Total number of nights where temporary accommodation is required: _____	
Distance between kennel address and furthest point along journey: _____ km	
Transport vehicle description: (include type of vehicle(s), number of greyhounds it can carry etc)	
Vehicle registration number(s):	
Reason for travel:	
Name of meeting or event (if applicable):	



OVERNIGHT ADDRESS

Night 1:	Night 2:	Night 3:
Street: Town / Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____ Forecast overnight temp: ____ °C Other amenities (tick): ☐ Water available ☐ Shade available ☐ Suitable parking ☐ Clear entry and exit access ☐ Suitable toileting area ☐ Local 24-hour veterinary clinic	Street: Town / Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____ Forecast overnight temp: ____ °C Other amenities (tick): ☐ Water available ☐ Shade available ☐ Suitable parking ☐ Clear entry and exit access ☐ Suitable toileting area ☐ Local 24-hour veterinary clinic	Street: Town / Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____ Forecast overnight temp: ____ °C Other amenities (tick): ☐ Water available ☐ Shade available ☐ Suitable parking ☐ Clear entry and exit access ☐ Suitable toileting area ☐ Local 24-hour veterinary clinic

GREYHOUND DETAILS

All details for each greyhound must be completed.

Greyhound name	Ear brand	Activity	Transport Vehicle Type	Individual Compartment Y/N





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