

Hot Weather Policy Greyhound Racing



Department	Integrity
Responsible RWAA Manager	Chief Steward Greyhounds
Date of Approval	5 th December 2018
Review Date	Last date of review 1 November 2022
Review	This policy will be reviewed biannually in accordance with the schedule prescribed within the RWAA Integrity Assurance Committee register of policies.

Purpose	<p>To outline when the RWAA Greyhound Stewards will declare that a venue is 'hot weather affected'.</p> <p>To provide requirements for all racing and trialling activity at venues that have been declared 'hot weather affected'.</p> <p>To ensure the welfare of greyhounds during transportation, at race meetings and trial sessions in hot weather conditions on days that are 'hot weather affected'.</p>
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Scope	All participants, greyhound transporters, RWAA and WAGRA club officials must comply with the requirements in this policy.
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Related Policies	The RWAA Transportation of Greyhounds Policy applies for all transportation of greyhounds including on hot weather affected days.
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Policy	
Policy Principles	<p>The welfare of the greyhound always comes before travelling, racing and trialling endeavours.</p> <p>Adherence to the requirements in this policy will assist in minimising the potential for heat stress in greyhounds transported, raced or trialled on 'hot weather affected' days.</p> <p>For the purpose of this policy the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • venue is the location where a race meeting or qualifying trial ('event') is scheduled to be held. • scheduled day is the day that the event is scheduled to be held. • forecast maximum temperature is the highest temperature forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for the venue at any time within the duration of the scheduled event. • travel time covers the period from 2 hours prior to kennelling start time plus the 2 hours after the last race. • duration of the scheduled event is the time which altogether covers the period from 2 hours prior to kennelling start time, until 2 hours after the last race. <p>All decisions will take into account the duration of the scheduled event which includes the travel time to and from the race meeting - this altogether covers the period from 2 hours prior to kennelling start time, until 2 hours after the last race.</p>
Declaring a 'hot weather affected' day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RWWA Greyhound Stewards will check the temperature forecast for the venue regularly in the week prior to a scheduled event including between 8.00 am and 3.00 pm on the day before the scheduled day. Ideally the last check should be no less than 24 hours prior to the first race on the scheduled day. 2. RWWA Greyhound Stewards will declare a venue to be 'hot weather affected' if the forecast maximum temperature is 35°C or higher for the venue at any time within the duration of the scheduled event.

<p>RWWA options on 'hot weather affected' days:</p> <p>35-37.9°C</p>	<p>3. Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue at any time within the duration of the scheduled event is between 35-37.9°C, RWWA may:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. continue with the meeting consistent with requirements set out in this policy; or b. re-schedule the meeting to another time of the day; or c. re-schedule the meeting to another day; or d. change the venue of the meeting; or e. abandon the scheduled race meeting. <p>All decisions will take into account the duration of the scheduled event which includes travel time to and from the race meeting - this altogether covers the period from 2 hours prior to kennelling start time, until 2 hours after the last race.</p>
<p>RWWA options on 'hot weather affected' days:</p> <p>38°C or higher</p>	<p>4. Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue at any time within the duration of the scheduled event is 38°C or higher RWWA will either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. re-schedule the meeting to another time of the day; or b. re-schedule the meeting to another day; or c. change the venue of the meeting; or d. abandon the scheduled race meeting. <p>All decisions will take into account the duration of the scheduled event which includes travel time to and from the race meeting - this altogether covers the period from 2 hours prior to kennelling start time, until 2 hours after the last race.</p> <p>4.1 Where a meeting has been re-scheduled to another time of the day, the amended race times must be determined prior to the advertised scratching deadline for the meeting.</p> <p>4.2 Where a meeting has already been re-scheduled to another time of the day, and temperatures remain at or above 38°C at the venue 2 hours prior to kennelling, the meeting will be abandoned.</p>
<p>Participant requirements on all 'hot weather affected' days</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Participants must only transport greyhounds according to the RWWA Transportation of Greyhounds Policy. 6. Participants must seek veterinary advice from the On Track Veterinarian (OTV) immediately if their greyhounds show signs of heat stress upon arrival on course. 7. Participants are permitted to use cooling vests on their greyhounds at any time prior to racing or trialling. 8. Participants must offer water to their greyhounds upon arrival at the race track and then proceed to kennel the greyhounds as soon as possible. 9. Participants must immediately refer any greyhound to the OTV to be examined if they observe that greyhound to be passing dark or red coloured urine.

	<p>10. Racing greyhounds must proceed to the boxes without being paraded.</p> <p>11. Participants must offer drinking water to greyhounds immediately after racing, or trialling without forcing them to drink.</p> <p>12. Greyhounds must be directed to the nearest hosing or wash-down bay immediately after the trial or race, without being paraded. Participants must hose down the greyhound immediately to thoroughly wet the feet, chest, head, neck, back and groin areas. Excess water must be removed from the greyhound afterwards.</p> <p>13. Veterinary advice must be sought if a greyhound is showing signs of heat stress or other abnormalities post racing. Potential indicators of heat stress are: dehydration, panting, skin feeling warm, fast heart rate and pulse, drooling, red gums, muscle tremors and unsteady gait. If there is any doubt as to whether or not a greyhound is suffering from heat stress, participants must consult with the OTV as soon as symptoms present.</p> <p>14. After racing a greyhound must be held in the kennel area, in order to fully recover, for a period of time at least until the end of the next scheduled race (approx. 20 minutes), prior to leaving the course. The Stewards may decide, in consultation with the OTV, when it may be appropriate to discontinue this procedure at some time during the race meeting, if the temperature and thermal load has decreased to a more suitable level.</p> <p>15. At no stage are greyhounds to be loaded into their transportation until such time as they are leaving the course. This measure applies throughout the entirety of the scheduled event and is still applicable when greyhounds are no longer required to remain in the kennel area after racing.</p>
<p>Scratching's on 'hot weather affected' days</p>	<p>16. Stewards may allow a greyhound to be withdrawn from an event without penalty where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temperature is forecast to be above 35°C; and • the trainer has no air-conditioned facility available for the transport; or • the greyhound has a journey exceeding an hour to get to the race track; or • the greyhound has a history of previous episodes of heat/travel stress. <p>17. Any application for withdrawal without penalty must be made prior to the official scratching time of the race meeting, however Stewards may consider late requests.</p>
<p>Club Requirements</p>	<p>18. Clubs must fit all kennel areas with temperature measuring devices.</p> <p>19. All Club air conditioning systems must be functional and serviced at least annually before the month of October.</p>

	<p>20. Clubs must activate the air conditioning system in the kennels no later than 9am on race days.</p> <p>21. Clubs must aim to keep the ambient temperature in the kennels between 18 to 24°C.</p> <p>22. Ensure adequate hosing bays are available to facilitate post-race cooling.</p> <p>23. Kennel staff must have iced water and towels available for post-race cooling of greyhounds where necessary.</p> <p>24. Track staff must water all concrete and tarred surfaces in and around the kennel block and carpark just prior to kennelling where necessary.</p>
<p>Steward Requirements and Decisions</p>	<p>25. Stewards must record the kennel area temperature periodically throughout the meeting via the kennel supervisor.</p> <p>26. Stewards will abandon or postpone the remainder of a race meeting if the temperature in the race kennel block reaches 26°C and cannot be reduced promptly.</p> <p>27. If at any time within the duration of the scheduled event the ambient temperature reaches or exceeds 38°C Stewards will, in consultation with the On-Track Veterinarian (OTV), either suspend racing until the temperature falls below 38°C or abandon the remainder of the race meeting as is appropriate.</p> <p>28. The OTV will closely monitor all greyhounds and at any time the OTV can make recommendations to the Stewards that the meeting be abandoned, if in their opinion the welfare of the greyhounds competing is likely to be adversely affected by the heat.</p> <p>29. Where the actual temperature on or after the kennelling start time on the day of the racing or trialling activity is significantly lower than 35°C, the Steward in Charge may at their discretion, relax or dispense with any of the additional race meeting requirements for hot weather affected days set out in this policy.</p> <p>30. Stewards will minimize the time that greyhounds are required to parade/be held in parading/race presentation areas. Stewards may allow early kennelling of greyhounds should they arrive on course before normal kennelling time.</p>
<p>Trialling on 'hot weather affected' days</p>	<p>31. Trialling must not occur at any time when the ambient temperature at the track reaches or exceeds 38°C.</p> <p>32. A Club will abandon or postpone a non-race day trial sessions when the forecast maximum temperature, checked between 3.00 pm on the day before the trial up until the start of the trial, for the venue is 38°C or higher.</p> <p>33. Clubs must abandon all qualifying and after race trial sessions if the temperature in the trial kennel area reaches 26°C and cannot be reduced promptly.</p> <p>34. Where a venue has been declared hot weather affected, trials may only occur after twilight and night race meetings where applicable.</p>