

Guide to Heat Stress and Heat Stroke in Greyhounds



How to recognise the signs and treat your greyhound

WHAT IS HEAT STRESS?

Heat stress is a potentially life-threatening condition caused by an **elevation in body temperature** when panting is not enough to cool the greyhound.

It can be due to **high temperatures, excessive humidity, exercise and stress.**

Heat stress is treatable, however, if the signs of heat stress are not treated appropriately, then **heat stroke can occur with fatal consequences.**

Dark coloured greyhounds can be more prone to heat stress – **avoid exercising in the heat of the day.**



RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

PROVIDE ACTIVE COOLING IMMEDIATELY

Panting

Salivation

Staring eyes

Increased heart rate

Listlessness

Vocalisation and whining



THREE STEPS TO TREAT HEAT STRESS

- 1** **Stop all exercise** and move to a shaded area or, ideally, into an air-conditioned area.
- 2** Provide plenty of cool, **fresh water** and plenty of **ventilation** (fan) to move evaporated fluid away and to drop the humidity levels.
- 3** **Actively cool** the greyhound – wipe down or ideally hose continuously with cool water; immerse in a shallow pool or cold-water bath, then use ice mats, cold, wet towels for lying on; or ice collars.

WHAT IS HEAT STROKE?

Heat stroke results when the **greyhound overheats**.

It is a **life-threatening VETERINARY EMERGENCY**.



RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

SEEK IMMEDIATE VETERINARY TREATMENT

excessive or loud panting

thick saliva

vomiting

diarrhoea

staggering or wobbliness

strange behaviour

seizures

collapse



For more information contact GRNZ at welfare@GRNZ.co.nz

**WE LOVE OUR DOGS.
THEY LOVE TO RACE.**

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