



GRNZ Hot Weather Racing and Travel Policy

16 December 2022 (effective date 1 January 2023)

1. Purpose	The purpose of this Policy is to provide for the welfare of greyhounds travelling and racing in hot weather in New Zealand to ensure they are not exposed to the unnecessary risk of heat stress and are provided with sufficient drinking water and opportunities to drink that enable them to always maintain good hydration.
2. Scope	The Hot Weather Racing and Travel Policy applies to all Licensed Persons (LPs) and Greyhound Racing Clubs operating in New Zealand, and includes all Racing Officials, including Stewards, On-Track Veterinarians and Kennel staff.
3. Hot weather	The Policy will be activated if the forecast (Met Service) temperature on the day of the race meeting, or trial session in question is expected to reach, or reaches, 30°C, or above.
4. Cancellation of races or trials due to extreme hot weather	<p>Stewards must abandon any race meeting, or race, or trial, where the ambient temperature, measured at the track, rises above 35°C; and must consider abandonment or re-scheduling the race meeting should the temperature be forecast (Met Service) to rise above 35°C during the period in which the meeting is scheduled to occur.</p> <p>GRNZ may, in consultation with Stewards and clubs, consider rescheduling meetings, or races, or trials forecast to be affected by extreme hot weather (35°C and above) to take place at another time on the same day, provided that the temperature does not exceed 35°C at the time which greyhounds are travelling to, or from, the race meeting.</p> <p>A club must abandon any unofficial trialling session where the temperature reaches 35°C or more, or when the temperature is forecast (Met Service) to be</p>

	<p>35°C or above during the scheduled time for club trials.</p>
<p>5. Scratching provision</p>	<p>Stewards may allow a greyhound to be withdrawn from an event without penalty where the official (Met Service) forecast temperature is 30°C, or higher, at the track in question and the hot weather policy is enacted.</p> <p>In the exercise of discretion by the Stewards, the welfare of the greyhound must be the paramount consideration and should include a consideration of travel times.</p>
<p>6. Club responsibilities under this Policy: Hot weather affected meetings or trials</p>	<p>Clubs must ensure that all kennels are adequately equipped with air-conditioning systems and that a responsible equipment maintenance strategy is adopted and observed.</p> <p>An annual service check of the air-conditioning system must be undertaken no later than October each year.</p> <p>Temperature in the kennel areas must be maintained at between 18-22°C. Clubs must arrange to turn on the air-conditioning with sufficient time to reach the target temperature before kennelling (approximately three hours prior to kennelling).</p> <p>Thermometers must be visible in a high traffic area of the kennel block to monitor the ambient temperature within the kennel block. Ideally, they should be placed on top of kennel bays to allow accurate recording of the greyhound's environmental temperature and should not be positioned immediately in front of air-conditioning units.</p> <p>During the summer months (1 December to 1 March), a temperature log of kennel bay temperatures must be kept by the kennel supervisor, with temperature readings recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● prior to the start of kennelling, and ● immediately prior to Race 1; and ● mid-meeting; and

- should greyhounds in the kennel be panting or demonstrating signs of discomfort.

On hot weather affected days, when the Policy is enacted, clubs must have ice, water, and extra water hoses readily available and connected, that allow all greyhounds in a race, quick access to water for active cooling, following a race.

There must be the same number of water hoses available as greyhounds engaged in racing, to facilitate immediate cooling post-race. Water baths to submerge greyhounds may also be used, the water should be replaced with fresh, cool water often to avoid it heating up to body temperature.

Club officials must consistently monitor all greyhounds in the kennels for excessive panting and signs of heat stress.

Should an LP or club official have concerns for the welfare of a kennelled greyhound, the on-track veterinarian and/or Steward must be informed immediately.

To prevent unnecessary exposure to the heat, club officials should ensure that greyhounds are only removed from the race kennels when it is time for the greyhounds to move directly to the starting boxes, the need for stir-up should be assessed.

At the conclusion of the race, the greyhounds should be directed immediately to the hosing down/wash bay area.

Clubs must ensure greyhounds are given the opportunity for a drink and be actively cooled down by hosing, or water bath, prior to them taking part in post-race presentation.

Club officials must be aware that greyhounds seen to be passing dark or reddish urine are to be referred to the on-track veterinarian for further examination.

Clubs must provide access to air-conditioned kennels for greyhounds on any occasion that unofficial trialling

	<p>occurs at the racetrack unless the greyhounds are housed in an air-conditioned trailer or an air-conditioned vehicle.</p>
<p>7. Kennelling and water provision post-race</p>	<p>After racing, LPs may offer greyhounds a drink at the wash bay from a hose. All greyhounds must undergo active cooling by hose or water bath.</p> <p>LPs must return any greyhound, not undergoing swabbing, to its air-conditioned race kennel for a minimum of 30 minutes and provide greyhounds with a drinking bucket, containing at least 300ml of cool water, to allow it to rehydrate and recover normal core temperature (ideally, they will remain here until they leave the racetrack). LPs who have air-conditioned modes of transport may instead return their greyhounds to the air-conditioned transport compartment that has been pre-cooled or maintained between 18-22°C.</p> <p>LPs may provide tap water or bottled water for drinking water but no other products, other than plain water, may be brought into the kennel area.</p> <p>The on-track veterinarian and/or Stewards must be immediately notified should any greyhound not have fully recovered from racing or be demonstrating any sign of heat stress, dehydration (dark coloured urine, skin tenting, sticky gums) and an individual recovery plan established by the veterinarian and LP together.</p> <p>The provisions of Regulation 14 (Dogs left in vehicles) of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 always apply.</p>
<p>8. On-track veterinary responsibilities under this policy</p>	<p>Veterinarians must maintain awareness of the temperature in the kennel room. Hot greyhounds returning to the kennel area post-race will likely cause the temperature to rise. If the temperature in the race kennels reaches 24°C, the veterinarian should inspect each greyhound, after it has been removed from the race kennel, and prior to competing in an event for signs of heat stress and dehydration.</p> <p>If the temperature in the race kennels reaches 26°C,</p>

the Stewards and on-track veterinarian are to consult with club officials, and if the temperature cannot be reduced promptly, then the upcoming events for that meeting may be abandoned or postponed at the direction of the Steward in charge of the meeting.

Veterinarians must monitor greyhounds for signs of heat stress pre and post-race, especially in the wash-bay, and ensure that greyhounds are recovered and adequately hydrated prior to being removed from their race kennels post-race to be returned to modes of transport.

Where an LP, trainer, steward, or veterinarian suspects that a greyhound may be suffering from heat stress or dehydration on retrieval from the kennel prior to that greyhound's race, the greyhound must be re-weighed by the same process as at kennelling.

A record of the second weight should be made. Any greyhound with a weight variation greater than 1.5% (0.45kg in a 30kg greyhound) should be directed to the veterinarian for an examination, to establish whether it is appropriate for the greyhound to race and to be sure the greyhound is not dehydrated.

The greyhound's temperature may be taken, and attention paid to their hydration, skin tenting, mucous membranes and the likelihood that they are fit to perform at their best without compromising their welfare. Veterinarians can expect a greyhound's temperature to rise by at least 1.5°C during racing.

Veterinarians must have ready access to intravenous fluids to administer, if required, during hot weather affected meetings.

9. LP responsibilities under this Policy

Preparing for travel

LPs must ensure that their mode of transporting greyhounds is sufficiently cool before greyhounds are loaded for transportation.

A mode of transport should be started and pre-air-conditioned prior to the time of departure.

Greyhounds can be hosed or towelled down with

water prior to being placed in the transport.

When planning transport to the track, LPs should avoid travelling in the heat of the day, or plan to arrive as close as possible to the opening time of kennelling.

LPs must provide their greyhounds with adequate water and, if appropriate, ice.

Water must be offered to a greyhound before the journey, and it is essential to carry adequate water and drinking containers in case of delay or breakdown during the journey, and for arrival on course. LPs must be aware of prohibited substances and avoid electrolytes or other substances pre-race.

Arriving at the track pre-race

After arrival at the racetrack, and after LPs have offered their greyhounds water, the greyhounds must be kennelled as quickly as possible. LPs may hose greyhounds on arrival at the track, prior to kennelling.

The provisions of Regulation 14 (Dogs left in vehicles) of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 always apply (Appendix I). Ideally, greyhounds will remain in air-conditioned race kennels until they leave the track.

LPs must provide drinking water and regularly monitor greyhounds housed in vehicles or trailers, during hot weather affected race meetings or trialling, where they may suffer heat stress.

Post-race

After a race, LPs must offer the greyhound water to drink, but not attempt to force water intake. LPs must ensure that they actively cool greyhounds immediately after the race by hosing or submersion in a water bath.

The greyhound should be hosed until it shows signs of a decrease in its panting. It is important to pay attention to hosing the greyhound's feet, chest, back and groin area.

LPs must take time in this active cooling process, and they may take the greyhound for a short walk before

re-hosing it with water, offering the greyhound another drink and returning the greyhound to the air-conditioned kennels or air-conditioned transport compartment.

Preparing to transport home

LPs must ensure that the steps taken to cool their mode of transport for the journey to the track are repeated prior to leaving the racecourse.

LPs must offer greyhounds water before leaving the racecourse and ensure they have ample fluids for drinking stops on the trip home. LPs may hose greyhounds down before placing in modes of transport.

After arrival at home

When at home, LPs must ensure greyhounds have sufficient clean drinking water. If necessary, greyhounds can be hosed again, prior to being placed in their home kennels. Greyhounds may still be affected by heat once at home, so constant monitoring for adequate hydration is advisable.

Appendix 1: Regulation 14, from the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018.

14 Dogs left in vehicles

(1) A person who leaves a dog in a stationary vehicle must ensure that the dog does not display signs of shade-seeking behaviour, as well as 1 or more of the following signs consistent with heat stress:

- a) excessive panting:
- b) excessive drooling:
- c) hyperventilation.

(2) If subclause (1) is not complied with, the owner of the vehicle, the owner of the dog, and the person in charge of the dog left in the vehicle each commit an offence and are each liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$900.

(3) The offence in subclause (2) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$300.

(4) For the purpose of section 162(1) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, an inspector has reasonable cause to believe that a person has committed an infringement offence if the person is the owner of the dog, or the owner of the vehicle involved in the failure



to comply with this regulation.

(5) In this regulation, shade-seeking means that the dog is compulsively seeking out and placing, or attempting to place, itself in the shadiest, coolest part of the vehicle that it can access.