



FACT SHEET

Hot weather and heat stress



Heat stress is a potentially life threatening condition caused by elevation in body temperature. It can be due to high temperatures or excessive humidity and occurs when panting is not sufficient enough to cool the greyhound down.

PREVENTING HEAT STRESS

Heat stress is completely preventable, but if the signs of heat stress are not treated appropriately then heat stroke can occur with fatal consequences. The number one prevention of heat stress is good hydration and allowing the greyhound access to plenty of water. It is important to note that large, dark-coated greyhounds and nervous greyhounds are at increased risk of heat stress and should receive particular care in hot weather. During hot weather it is best to avoid travelling long distances in trailers prior to racing. Any greyhound that is travelling should be well hydrated and contained in an air-conditioned vehicle that has been cooled before the greyhound enters.

To prevent heat stress post-race it is important to:

- Monitor the greyhound closely for any signs of heat stress;
- Provide plenty of water, but do not force the greyhound to drink;
- Hose continuously or immerse the greyhound in water until panting decreases;
- Hose the greyhound's feet, chest, back and groin;
- Continually remove excess water by brushing against the hair to allow cool air to reach the skin.

Temperature SMART

38°C: All racing abandoned.

32°C: Greyhounds can be withdrawn from races without penalty. Extra ice & water at tracks.

26°C: Racing abandoned when kennels exceed 26°C.

RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

SEEK VETERINARY ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU SEE THESE SIGNS

BODY
High body temperature, bloody diarrhoea, anxiety

HEART
Accelerated heart rate

EYES
Fixed gaze or glassy eyes

LEGS
Staggering or cramping

MOUTH
Heavy panting, excessive drooling, red gums, vomiting

