



## ***Hot Weather Policy***

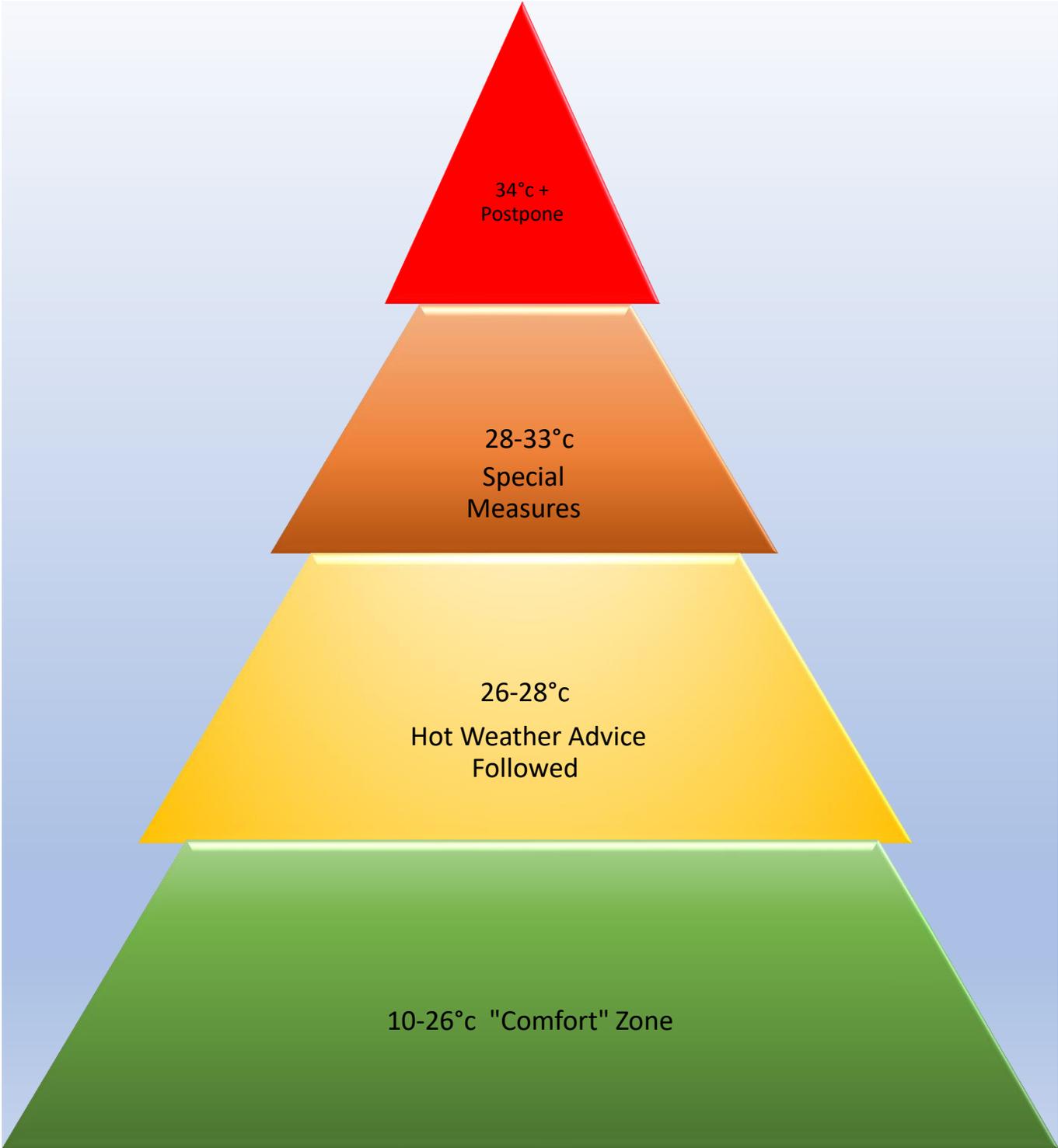
## Policy Statement



Greyhounds prefer to operate within their Thermo-Neutral Zone (TNZ) of between 10 and 26°C, with a small margin for individual animals. Above 26°C, greyhounds need to expend energy to thermoregulate (cool themselves.) and when the ambient temperature is high, the risk of heat stress is increased. With the growing likelihood of summertime temperatures exceeding 28°C, this has placed a greater emphasis on safeguarding greyhounds from the effects of heat and humidity. This policy has been designed to provide a structured approach to help mitigate the effects of hot weather on racing greyhounds, and to provide clear guidance, based on a temperature pyramid, for when this policy applies.

The comfort of the individual greyhound is the best measure of welfare and this consideration alone will supersede all other factors in deciding whether a greyhound shall race or not.

# Temperature Pyramid



## Transporting Greyhounds in Hot Weather



- To ensure the safety and welfare of racing greyhounds, transportation must be undertaken in accordance with **Appendix II of the GBGB Rules of Racing**.
- Trainers must ensure their vehicle is sufficiently cool before greyhounds are loaded for transportation.
- **Fluids must be given** to the greyhound before the journey, and it is **essential to carry an adequate supply of water** and drinking containers, in case of delay or breakdown.
- **All vehicles shall be fitted with a digital thermometer in the part of the vehicle where the greyhounds are located.**
- The **vehicle temperature shall always be maintained between 10°C and 26°C** during transport.
- **Greyhounds must not be left unattended in a parked vehicle at any time**
- Trainers shall plan their journey and adequate consideration shall be given to rest stops to inspect the greyhounds and provide the opportunity for water consumption.
- Greyhounds shall be offered water upon arrival at a racecourse, be checked by the attending vet and kennelled without delay.

## **Special Measures (Transport) for temperatures above 28°C**

- Only vehicles that have the facility to maintain the ambient temperature between 10 and 26°C shall be used to transport greyhounds when the ambient temperature is above 28°C.
- Consideration should be given to having an air gap under the transport cages to reduce contact with the van floor.
- Trainers must place the welfare of each greyhound above all else. Each journey shall be planned, and consideration should be given to the following:
  1. the number of greyhounds being transported
  2. the road and traffic conditions
  3. the length of the journey
  4. experience of handler
  5. emergency management in case of an accident, breakdown or high traffic congestion.

## At the Racecourse

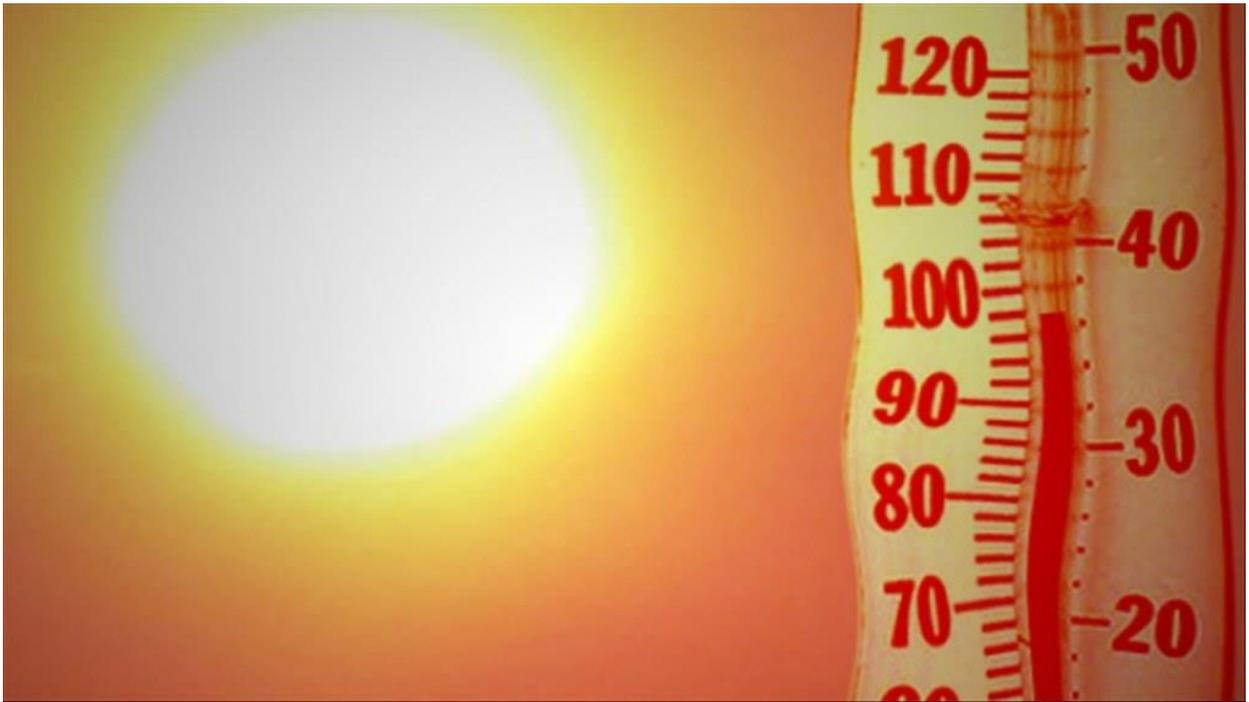


1. For temperatures of 28°C and above, tracks should employ Special Measures (as set out in the Hot Weather Policy and GBGB Guidelines) to maintain the temperature in the dogs' environment within the thermo-neutral zone (TNZ). Where dogs are briefly exposed to higher temperatures through racing, they shall return to a managed environment within the limits of the TNZ until their comfort is restored.
2. When ambient racecourse temperatures reach 34°C or greater, racing should be suspended until temperatures drop below 34°C; after which racing may continue with Special Measures in place.
3. Ambient temperature readings at the racecourse should be measured and recorded at a location relevant to the greyhounds at the track. This may include, but not limited to, the track area, paddock, exercise area.
4. Kennel area temperatures shall be measured and recorded at regular intervals, with individual kennels monitored independently if circumstances dictate.
5. Hydration is important at all times. All Greyhounds must have access to fresh cool water.

## Special Measures Racecourses – temperatures of 28°C and above

- When the ambient temperature is between **28°C and 34°C**, **racecourses** shall only race if they are able to maintain a constant kennel temperature of between 10 and 26°C.
- Parades shall be shortened or avoided.
- The racecourse shall have in place a means of **rapidly cooling a greyhound**, such as air-conditioned cooling rooms or cooling baths.
- **The trainer is responsible** for having enough staff in attendance to provide each greyhound enough time to cool off after it has raced and before returning to its kennel.

## Temperatures of 34°C or greater



- When ambient racecourse temperatures reach 34°C, racing should be suspended until temperatures drop below 34°C, after which racing may continue with Special Measures in place.
- Racecourses can re-schedule the start times of a race meeting.
- The Greyhound Board of Great Britain will constantly review and update this policy based on current and future research.

## Appendix 1

### Monitoring Ambient Temperature

- Keep the thermometer out of direct sunlight. If the sun is shining on your thermometer, the temperature will be raised above ambient because of solar heating. For this reason, always be careful to place thermometers in the shade.
- Don't place your thermometer too low or too high above the ground. Too low, and it will pick up excess heat radiating from the ground. Too high and it will be cooled by any breeze. A height of around 3 to 5 feet (1 to 1.5 metres) above ground works best.
- Place the thermometer in an open, well-ventilated area. This keeps the air circulating freely around it, which means it will represent the temperature of the surrounding environment.
- Keep the thermometer covered. Shielding it from the sun, rain, snow, and frost provides a standardized environment.
- Place it over a natural (grassy or dirt) surface. Concrete, pavement, and stone attract and store heat, which they can then radiate towards your thermometer giving it a higher temperature reading than the actual environment.
- Ambient temperature can be defined as the average temperature of the air in your environment.
- Outdoor ambient temperature refers to the temperature of the air in the environment outside any confined spaces.
- Indoor ambient temperature refers to the average air temperature within a confined space such as weighing room, kennel block, office etc.

This appendix is subject to revision based on current and future research.

(The above guide is based on a standard analogue liquid-filled thermometer)