

Heat Policy

Background

This document is intended for the use by trial organisers to minimise the risk of heat stress to humans and dogs participating in agility trials in hot weather.

Trial planning

When scheduling a trial for dates when the weather may reasonably be expected to exceed 30°C consideration should be given to :-

1. Scheduling a twilight trial or earlier start in the morning than usual.
2. Provision of shade at the rings for judges, stewards and competitors waiting to compete.
3. Provision of drinking water at the ring for judges and stewards.
4. Provision of drinking water and paddling pools around the grounds for use by the dogs.
5. Scheduling to ensure that stewards and judges can be rotated during the day so that no one is out in the heat all day.

Conduct of a trial in the heat

6. Every person at a trial is responsible for their own health and the health of any dogs they have brought to the trail. Each person should bring sufficient shade (tent, umbrella etc) and water for themselves and their dogs.
7. Dogs at higher risk of heat stress include brachycephalic breeds (eg Boxer, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Pug, Shih Tzu) and high drive dogs that will continue running until they collapse and particular care should be taken with these dogs on hot days.
8. Judges and stewards should be prepared to allow dogs running in multiple rings sufficient time to recover between runs. Competitors should consider competing in less classes if the weather is hot.
9. The judge may order the removal from competition any dog suffering signs of heat stress (Excessive panting, weakness, blue tinge to tongue) as the dog is unfit to compete (Rule 8.10 and 8.11)
10. Rings should be set up to minimise the need for walking by lead stewards, ring stewards, scribes and time keepers.
11. Judging at a trial will be suspended if the temperature reaches 35°C as indicated by a suitable outside thermometer suspended in an open, shaded area no more than 10 meters from the judging rings.
Judging will only recommence if the temperature drops and stays below 35°C for a period of 15 minutes.

Trial abandonment

A trial may be abandoned

- Prior to commencement of judging
 1. No levies shall be payable.
 2. Refund of entries fees shall be a domestic matter.
 3. Payment of judges and other officials shall be a domestic matter between the affiliate and the judge / official.
- After judging commences and temperature reaches the threshold requiring suspension and eventual abandonment.
 1. All levies shall be payable.
 2. Refund of entries fees for all runs not commenced shall be a domestic matter.
 3. Payment of judges and other officials shall be a domestic matter between the affiliate and the judge / official.
 4. Awards for classes completed.
 - All qualification cards shall be awarded.
 - All prizes / places shall be awarded.
 - All qualifications gained will be eligible for ANKC titles.
 - Points from all applicable classes will count towards Top Dog qualification.
 5. Awards for classes commenced but not completed.
 - All qualification cards shall be awarded.
 - All prizes / places shall be awarded.
 - All qualifications gained will be eligible for ANKC titles.
 - Points from all applicable classes will NOT count towards Top Dog qualification.

NOTE: In considering refunds and levies payable the following must be remembered:

- *Whether a single or double trial has been scheduled.*
- *Levies payable include percentage of entry fees, which includes all abandoned runs if the trial has commenced.*