Cold Weather Policy

Purpose	Greyhounds prefer to operate within their Thermo-Neutral Zone (TNZ) of between 10°C and 26°C, with a small margin for individual animals. Due to their low level of body fat, they are more susceptible to extreme weather conditions than other breeds of dogs. The GBGB Cold Weather Policy is designed to provide trainers, kennelhands and racecourse staff with measures to protect the health, comfort and safety of greyhounds during periods of cold weather.
Scope	The Cold Weather Policy applies to all GBGB licence holders caring for greyhounds during their visits to the racecourse and during transportation to and from the track. Racecourses and trainers must ensure they are aware of any forecast cold weather and have the necessary measures in place to ensure compliance with this Policy.
Policy	**At the racecourse** • Racecourses must monitor the ambient temperature both at the racecourse and within the kennel block(s). Kennel area temperatures must be monitored and recorded at regular intervals, with individual kennels monitored independently if circumstances dictate. • Racecourses must be aware of surface conditions and ensure that walkways and entrances to the paddock and track are clear from ice or snow. • Each greyhound in a race must be provided with a suitable overcoat by the racecourse to wear when parading. The overcoat must be dry and resistant to wintry conditions. • Trainers shall ensure that each greyhound has had sufficient time to adequately warm up prior to racing. • When greyhounds are on parade, handlers shall keep greyhounds moving and avoid periods of inactivity. • If the track is frozen (partially or fully) or there is perceived to be any risk to the safety and welfare of greyhounds running on the surface, racing should be delayed or called off. • Where extreme weather is forecast, the Racing Office shall make every effort to take an early decision to abandon a meeting before trainers have embarked on their journey to the racecourse. Any such variation for a Race Meeting must be notified to the GBGB or the Area Stipendiary Steward concerned. Such notifications shall be made as soon as practicable and no later than 24 hours after the date of the Race Meeting concerned (Rule 107).

	Transporting greyhounds in cold weather • Transportation must be undertaken in accordance with Appendix II of the Rules of Racing. • All vehicles used to transport greyhounds shall be air conditioned and always maintained between 10°C and 26°C during transport. A remote monitoring device must display the temperature in the greyhound cabin and be visible from the driver's seat. • Sufficient suitable coats shall be available for all greyhounds to wear during transportation. • An adequate, fresh supply of water and suitable drinking vessels must also be carried. • Every journey must be planned and managed, with consideration given to the following: o The number of greyhounds being transported; o The road and traffic conditions; o The length of the journey; o The experience of the handler; o Emergency management in case of an accident, breakdown or high traffic congestion. • Greyhounds must not be left unattended in a parked vehicle other than during the times when they are being unloaded for kennelling and reloaded post-meeting, with no unnecessary delays in either process.
Additional trainer guidance: kennel care and arrangements	• In order to maintain vital organs at a constant temperature, a greyhound's metabolism needs to work much harder during the winter months. Additional food should be made available during cold spells to increase energy input and assist with thermoregulation (see Appendix 2 of the 'GBGB Greyhound Residential Kennels Code of Practice' for further details). Trainers should also be mindful that an individual greyhound's weight should not vary by more than 1 kg from its weight in its previous trial or race (Rule 52). • Additional bedding should be used to ensure each greyhound has a warm and comfortable place to sleep; this must be clean, dry and regularly replaced. • Kennel coats are a good method of providing an extra layer of insulation during the winter months and should be regularly cleaned and checked for damage. Trainers should ensure that they have a suitable quantity of good quality kennel coats

available for use both in the kennel and when out walking.

- Other non-conventional methods of keeping a dog warm include using a 'snood' (a cross between a scarf and a hood) or cutting down woolly tights to cover the neck and ears.

- Where central heating or other forms of kennel heating are used, they must be safe, regularly maintained and in full working order ahead of any forecasted cold weather.

- Modern methods of insulation can provide a noticeable improvement to the ambient temperature of a kennel by reducing draughts (while also ensuring adequate ventilation) and unnecessary heat loss. Funding for kennel insulation, a new heating system or to upgrade an existing heating system is available through the GBGB Trainers' Assistance Fund.

- During periods of extreme cold weather and when there is a real risk of ice and/or snow, trainers should contact the Racing Office at the earliest opportunity to discuss potential transport difficulties.

- Extra vigilance should be displayed during the winter months and when certain constituents are used to combat the effect of snow, ice and freezing. These can be particularly harmful or discomforting to a greyhound. For example:

    - Anti-freeze (ethylene glycol) is commonly used for vehicle maintenance and must always be safely stored away from greyhounds. Anti-freeze is extremely toxic if ingested. Extra caution should be shown when exercising greyhounds in public areas and box muzzles must always be worn. If you suspect your greyhound may have licked some antifreeze, do not wait for symptoms to appear – contact your vet immediately so they can start treatment straight away.

    - Walking greyhounds on salted paths or highways can carry a small risk to greyhounds from the additional chemicals added to rock salt and road grit, which can be toxic to dogs if ingested. It is recommended that a greyhound's feet are washed thoroughly after exercise on gritted areas.

    - Extra precaution should be given to greyhounds with recent sandburns or spike wounds when out exercising. Consideration should be given to using a protective bandage or boot and greyhounds should be rested from racing in accordance with veterinary advice.

    - Greyhounds that have sore quicks or healed sandburns should have a barrier cream applied (in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines)

	to protect these areas from contact with grit/salt and to prevent unnecessary discomfort. o Water receptacles that have become frozen overnight must be defrosted fully and cleaned before re-using. o Keep greyhounds away from rivers, ponds and lakes that are iced over as thin ice may break under a dog's weight.
Relevant Rules of Racing	Rule 52 – Weight variation, & weight in No race/No trial Rule 107 – Variation in arrangements for Meetings Appendix II – Guidelines for the Transportation of Greyhounds
Relevant GBGB policies and documentation	Hot Weather Policy Code of Practice for Greyhound Residential Kennels (Appendix 2 and 3) Cold Weather and Prerace Warmup Guidelines
Last reviewed	October 2026