HEAT STRESS AND HEAT STROKE IN PET GREYHOUNDS

Greyhounds are very susceptible to weather extremes and in soaring temperatures it is essential to make them as comfortable as possible to avoid dehydration, heat stress and heat stroke.

Dogs cannot sweat to keep their bodies cool and have two methods of cooling themselves:

- Evaporative cooling from the lungs and mouth in the form of panting.
- Conduction cooling from skin contact with cool surfaces or breezes.

It is very important to recognise the symptoms of heat stress and heat stroke.

**Heat Stress** - Panting, salivation, increased heart rate, listlessness and vocalisation/whining.

**Heat Stroke** - Excessive/loud panting, thick saliva, vomiting, diarrhoea, unsteadiness, seizures, collapse and possible death.

**What you can do to help.**

- Avoid exercise in the hottest part of the day – stick to cooler periods in the early morning and evening.
- Avoid transportation if possible.
- Keep dog in shaded, well ventilated area or in air conditioning.
- Provide plenty of cool, fresh water for drinking in containers that cannot be knocked over. Ensure it stays cool by adding ice if necessary.
- Cool the dogs body by providing wet towels for lying on, wipe down with cool water or hose down (never used ice or iced water as it can damage blood vessels).
- A plastic kiddies clamshell pool makes a great soaking spot.
- Commercially made cooling coats and mats are available.
- Watch out for paws on hot pavements.
- Electrolyte supplements are available from pet supply stores and vets which can help prevent dehydration and assist rehydration. Ask the professionals for advice.

If you are concerned your Greyhound may have been affected by the heat, contact your veterinarian immediately.