

**Section 13 Hot and Inclement Weather Policy Conformation Show**  
**13.1 Alice Springs and surrounds.**

**Effective 1/10/2015**

**a. Cancellation of a show or exhibition:**

- i) Conformation shows must be cancelled when the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts a temperature above 40 degrees Celsius or higher at 4pm two days prior to an affiliate's advertised event.
- ii) Conformation shows must be cancelled when the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts possible (life threatening or property damaging) inclement weather 4pm two days prior to an affiliate's advertised event.
- iii) Where the show or exhibition is a twilight or evening event, the show or exhibition may be delayed or postponed until the temperature or inclement weather condition is deemed suitable/or passed before the event can commence.
- iv) It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to check the Bureau of Meteorology's web site <http://www.bom.gov.au> at the time specified 4pm two days prior to an affiliate's advertised event for the forecasted weather condition for the day of that event.
- v) All show schedules must state that where a show or exhibition is cancelled in accordance with the Dogs NT inclement Weather Policy, no entry fees will be refunded.

**b. Notification of cancellation etc. to DOGS NT by Show Secretary:**

- i) The Affiliate Member must notify the Dogs NT office and its officials of its decision to cancel an exhibition immediately. Where an Affiliate Member has cancelled an exhibition, the Secretary or Show Manager must submit a copy of the catalogue to Dogs NT Administrator as soon as possible but within 14 days of the date of cancellation.

**c. Affiliates Responsibilities:**

- i) Permitted exceptions to these rules are in the case of an event being held in air conditioned facilities;
- ii) Responsibilities after commencement of Show/Exhibition:  
Where the temperature on the day of an exhibition reach 40 degrees Celsius or higher, all affiliate members must provide: Adequate shade in each ring for judges and in the assembly areas for stewards and exhibits;
- iii) A seat for all stewards;
- iv) Cool refreshments at ringside for judges and stewards;
- v) Hourly announcements to notify exhibitors to be alert to the conditions;
- vi) Advising that dogs must not be left in cars;
- vii) That conditions for dogs in trailers must be monitored regularly; and

- viii) That water and shade must be provided for all exhibits at all times when not in the show ring.
- ix) ) Affiliates should consider judging through morning tea/lunch breaks in consultation with judge/s. Where there is no lunchbreak, Junior Handler classes will not be conducted unless scheduled prior to the commencement of the exhibition.
- x) ) Affiliates should also consider the welfare of judges, stewards and exhibits in circumstances of gale force (destructive) wind. In the case of severe electrical storms in the vicinity of the exhibition, all judging should cease until the extreme weather has passed.

## 13.2 Shows Darwin and Surrounds

Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017

### a. Temperature

- i) During the hottest months of September to March, or any period of excessive temperatures, no exhibition shall commence before 5:30pm. Morning events including NSRT, in extreme weather should not proceed later than 11am. It is expected that clubs will take all reasonable measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all dogs, exhibitors, judges and all workers at the event. Measures to consider are to include, but are not limited to, the following;
  - 1. The provision of adequate shaded areas;
  - 2. Shade, seating, and refreshments for all officials
  - 3. Consideration of later Start Times to take advantage of cooler temperatures, and
  - 4. Structure Shows efficiently to allow dogs and exhibitors to be in the ring and assembly areas for the minimum amount of time.
- ii) In such cases where the forecasted temperature at Start Time is **excessive** the club should consider delaying the starting time for the exhibition until after sunset. The decision to delay should be made as soon as practicable and advised to all exhibiting persons at that time. Once the decision to delay the start time has been announced, it shall not be rescinded.
- iii) All exhibitors are asked to be more aware of their dogs during the hotter months, and any other period of excessive heat, and monitor them and the temperature more closely than usual. Different breeds react more adversely to the heat and exhibitors must be prepared to withdraw their dogs from the show should they deem the heat to be a safety issue. Above all else, the welfare of the dog should be paramount at all times.

### b. Cyclones

- i) All exhibitions shall be cancelled when a Cyclone Warning is issued for the day and place of an exhibition. Where a Cyclone Watch has been declared for the place of exhibition, an affiliate may make a presumptive decision to cancel the exhibition and advise all exhibitors as soon as is practicable. Once the decision to cancel an exhibition has been announced, it cannot be rescinded.

**c. Rain & Lightning**

- i) In the event of heavy rain an exhibition may:
1. be delayed before judging commences
  2. have classes postponed after judging has commenced, or;
  3. cancelled at any such time as it becomes unsafe to continue.

d. The decision to delay, postpone, or cancel is at the discretion of the affiliate and the judge. The decision to delay, postpone or cancel should be made as soon as practicable and advised to all exhibitors at that time. Once the decision to delay, postpone or cancel has been announced, it shall not be rescinded.

e. Affiliates are encouraged to select suitable wet weather venues when conducting exhibitions during periods of expected high rainfall.

f. In the case of lightning activity all exhibitions shall be delayed or postponed until such time as the weather conditions have reasonably passed by the exhibition grounds.

g. All exhibitors are reminded it is their responsibility to ensure the welfare and safety of their dog/s. Every dog will react differently to adverse weather events and exhibitors must be prepared to withdraw their dogs from the exhibition should they deem the weather or grounds to be a safety or welfare concern.

**13.3 Conclusion**

- a. Affiliates have the responsibility to make appropriate decisions on whether to conduct an exhibition based on their ability to provide a safe environment for all persons and animals attending the said exhibition. As such an affiliate may use the above guidelines to cover any and all such natural or manmade events where the safety and wellbeing of dogs, exhibitors, judges and workers at the event may be compromised.
- b. At all times the onus remains with exhibitors to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their dog/s and they remain exclusively liable for their decision to attend any exhibition conducted by an affiliate.