



HARNESS RACING HEAT POLICY

**AS ESTABLISHED AT
HARNESS ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
12 FEBRUARY 2009**

EFFECTIVE 1 MARCH 2009

- ❖ At race meetings where the Bureau of Meteorology has forecast, within 24 hours of the meeting, that the temperature at the venue where the meeting is to be held will exceed 38 degrees, a Trainer may, before 9.00am on the day of the meeting, seek permission from the Stewards to withdraw the horse from its engagement without a scratching penalty applied.
- ❖ A horse may be withdrawn for heat stress on arrival at the track by order of the Steward, in consultation with the On Course Veterinarian, Stewards and the Trainer. Any penalty incurred would be at the discretion of the Stewards acting on the advice of the Veterinarian.
- ❖ If the climatic conditions are excessive on race day, all horses that have been floated should be checked by a Veterinarian on arrival at the track.
- ❖ At the request of a Trainer or their representative, any other horse shall also be subject to pre-race Veterinary inspection.
- ❖ Horses shall not be required to parade and identification procedures shall be conducted in the stalls.
- ❖ Horses will be sent out onto the track for their preliminary 6 minutes prior to race start time in lieu of normal 10 minute requirement.
- ❖ Subject to restrictions applying at the time, Clubs are requested to ensure that facilities be provided to simultaneously hose/wash all horses in a race.
- ❖ Any Trainer who has any concerns regarding their horse's condition, post race, should immediately notify Stewards to enable Veterinary assistance to be available.
- ❖ Stewards to be mindful of prevailing conditions when directing horses to be post race swabbed. Horses to be only required to remain in swab stall a maximum of 30 minutes.
- ❖ The ongoing conduct of the race meeting shall at all times be subject to monitoring of environmental conditions by Stewards in consultation with the Veterinarian to ensure that the wellbeing of horses is protected.

