

Bellarine Dog Activities Group

Policy – Extreme Weather Response

Introduction

Extreme weather, such as heat, fire danger and flood, can impact the safety and welfare of people and dogs attending training at BDAG.

Under the current climate change predictions, extreme weather will become both more frequent and more extreme. A policy is required to protect human and canines attending dog training.

This policy prescribes the extreme weather parameters which would result in the cancellation of training on any given day.

Policy

All BDAG training will be cancelled if any of the following are met or forecast for the day of training:

1. The **Fire Danger Rating** is forecast to be Extreme or Code Red in the central forecast district on the day of training.

Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) are available from the CFA website and on several weather websites and apps. Central forecast district FDR can be found at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/central-fire-district> . FDRs are forecast 4 days in advance.

2. The **temperature** is forecast to be 30 degrees Celsius or above in Geelong at 7pm on the night of training.

Temperature forecasts for each hour are available on several websites, including: <http://m.weatherzone.com.au/vic/central/geelong/next48hours> and <https://www.willyweather.com.au/vic/barwon/geelong.html> . Note that forecasts are reasonably accurate out to four days

3. A moderate or major **flood warning** is issued by the Bureau of meteorology for Geelong for the day of training.

Flood warning information may be located at <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/warnings/>

Importantly, each individual must assess the potential extreme weather risk associated with **travelling** to and from the training venue, and make their own decisions based about that risk.

Special agility cancellations

Agility classes are conducted outdoors as a large area with a soft surface is required. It is not safe to conduct agility classes in the rain as there is potential for both dogs and people to slip on wet surfaces.

4. Agility classes may be cancelled if rain is forecast for the time of a lesson, or if it is raining one hour prior to, or during a lesson.

It is more difficult to predict the time rain will fall, and predictions days out are generally not possible. The agility instructor will make a call on cancellations as soon as feasible, but often this will be within 2 hours of the lesson. Agility instructors will advise of cancellations by email and/or SMS. Agility participants will need to provide mobile phone numbers to their instructor if they wish to be notified by SMS.

Occasionally, and depending on the curriculum and availability of indoor space, some agility exercises may be transferred to indoors due to rain.

Communications

The club will communicate any lesson cancellations due to extreme weather on its website and facebook page between 3 and 1 days before the scheduled training (except rain cancelled agility). However, it is each member's responsibility to monitor the fire, heat and flood weather conditions and determine if they are suitable for that member to attend.

Agility lesson cancellations due to rain will be advised by email or SMS, and this is likely to be only a few hours before the lesson begins

Refunds

If extreme weather results in the cancellation of more than two lessons of any class in any one term, the club will provide an effective refund for the value of the cancelled lessons by way of offering a commensurate discount for training in the next term. Refunds apply only to class fees.

Cancellation of one or two lessons of a class in a term will not attract a refund.

Definitions

Lesson	one instructing event, usually of 45 min duration
Class	the consecutive series of lessons at a level or in a discipline over the course of one term - eg Foundation 1 in Term 1
Term	there are four BDAG terms per year, generally aligned to school terms