



## Central Districts Shows Association (CDSA)

### Hot Weather Policy

V1.2 – For Review 2025

---

#### 1. Purpose & Scope

The Central Districts Shows Association (CDSA) is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all participants, volunteers, visitors, staff and animals at country shows.

This policy provides a framework for managing risks associated with **adverse weather conditions**, particularly extreme heat. It applies to all CDSA member shows and aligns with:

- *Animal Welfare Act 1985 (SA)*
  - PIRSA Heat Stress Management Guidelines
  - RSPCA Australia animal welfare recommendations
- 

#### 2. Weather Monitoring & Decision Making

- Each Show Committee will monitor Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecasts leading up to and during events.
  - Heat thresholds:
    - **≥33°C** – risk assessment required; event schedules may be modified.
    - **≥36°C** – all livestock including horse classes cancelled.
  - Specific cancellations in line with SA Country Shows guidelines:
    - **≥33°C** – Poultry & Companion Animals (pets) cancelled.
    - **≥36°C** – all livestock including horse competitions cancelled.
  - Committees may postpone, shorten or cancel events if conditions pose risks.
  - Exhibitors are expected to exercise duty of care in deciding whether to present livestock.
-

### 3. General Safety Measures

#### For People

- Provide shaded rest areas and cooling zones across the grounds.
- Ensure water refill stations are available and clearly marked.
- Supply sunscreen at key locations.
- Encourage sun-smart behaviour (hats, sunscreen, hydration).
- Adjust scheduling to cooler times of day when possible.

#### For Livestock & Animals

- Provide continuous access to clean water and shaded shelter.
  - Ensure adequate ventilation (fans, misting systems where practical).
  - Minimise handling, exertion and transport during peak heat.
  - Monitor for signs of heat stress (panting, lethargy, drooling, collapse).
- 

### 4. Transport & Handling of Livestock

- In accordance with legislative requirements, livestock including horses should not be transported when forecast temperatures exceed **35°C**, unless unavoidable with mitigation in place.
  - Transport, if necessary, should occur early morning or late evening.
  - Vehicles must be ventilated with adequate airflow.
  - Minimise travel times and ensure water is available before and after journeys.
- 

### 5. Event Adjustments & Cancellation

- Show Committees may:
    - Shorten show hours or reschedule to cooler times.
    - Relocate outdoor events to shaded or indoor spaces.
    - Limit demonstrations or displays that risk prolonged exposure.
  - Exhibitors and attendees will be notified of changes by **Wednesday evening prior to the event**.
  - Refunds in the event of cancellations are at the discretion of each Show Society and must be communicated in the show's entry terms.
-

## 6. Emergency Response

### People & Animals

- All shows must have first aid officers and veterinary support available.
- Cooling aids (ice packs, fans, misting, shaded areas) must be accessible.
- Emergency evacuation routes clearly signed and accessible.

### Heat Stress – General Signs:

- People: dizziness, fainting, nausea, heat stroke.
- Livestock: panting, open-mouth breathing, drooling, lethargy, wings spread (poultry).

### Response Actions:

- Move affected individuals/animals to a cool, shaded area immediately.
  - Provide water and apply cooling methods (misting, wetting down, shade).
  - Seek veterinary or medical attention without delay.
- 

## 7. Compliance & Enforcement

- Compliance with this policy is **mandatory** for all exhibitors and organisers.
  - Breaches may result in:
    - Removal from competition.
    - Referral to RSPCA South Australia or PIRSA.
  - Each Show Society is responsible for ensuring adherence.
- 

## 8. Communication

- Pre-event: Attendees, exhibitors and participants will be notified of weather risks and advised to prepare appropriately.
  - During event: Clear signage must identify water stations, cooling areas, shade and emergency services.
  - Updates will be provided via social media, websites, PA systems and event signage.
- 

## 9. Review & Updates

This policy will be **reviewed annually** by CDSA to reflect current best practices and weather patterns, and to ensure legislative compliance where required.

---

**By implementing this policy, CDSA and its member shows prioritise the welfare of people and animals while ensuring our shows remain safe, responsible and enjoyable events.**