



## OPERATION SUMMER

We are constantly reminded of the extreme weather events Melbourne experiences. Coming into the hottest and driest season of the year we must take extra care of our furry friends.

This document aims to provide a clear outline of how we tackle the summer and the heat that it brings.

‘Operation Summer’ ensures that every dog gets the exercise and socialization they need while taking into account the extreme dangers summer can pose. Daily exercise is still essential for our furry friends, however, when running an adventure, the safety of your pups will always come first. All our efforts are aimed to minimise the risk of danger.

### **Extreme Heat**

When a heat wave is upon us, we will be constantly updating ourselves on the latest weather advice from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)

The forecasted temperature and UV rating will determine whether we will run our adventures. It will be a judgement call by our team on a daily basis. The safety of our team is also factored into these decisions.

## **Summer traffic light system**

### **Green**

#### **25 degrees and below**

Sessions will go ahead and run as per usual.

- Fully airconditioned vehicles. The air-conditioner is not limited to the front cabins, air flow makes its way to the back cabin.
- Access to swimming water. Where it is safe to do so, the dogs will be given the opportunity to swim.
- First aid- Our team are all pet first aid trained meaning if a dog is heat effected, we can provide first aid.

### **Amber**

#### **25-31 degrees**

Sessions will go ahead with alterations to the walk.

- Dogs will have regular access to drinking water throughout the walk.
- Dog will have access to lakes and rivers to cool down.
- Where possible the walk will be conducted in shady areas
- Fully airconditioned vehicles. The air-conditioner is not limited to the front cabins, air flow makes its way to the back cabin.
- First aid- Our team are all pet first aid trained meaning if a dog is heat effected, we can provide first aid.
- Not over working the dogs- Most of our dog's love chasing after a ball, stick or frisbee, however, we will keep this to a minimum to ensure they aren't exhausting themselves in hotter temperatures.

### **Red**

#### **32 degrees and above**

Sessions are highly unlikely to run. Sessions will only go ahead if UV is very low and conditions feel lighter than forecasted.

## **Emergency procedures**

If a dog becomes heat effected on a walk normal first aid procedures will be put in place. We will provide immediate first aid to reduce the dogs body temperature. If there is no immediate response to this, the dog will be taken to the nearest Emergency Vet.

## **Brachycephalic dogs**

Commonly known as short-nosed or flat-faced dogs have a susceptibility of overheating. Hotter temperatures increase this risk. We encourage all owners to get in touch with us regarding their dog's specific needs. As a general rule, our team will have them in the front seat (where reasonably possible) to ensure they are getting direct ventilation from the air conditioner.

## **Changing and Cancelling sessions**

### Beating the heat by running a condensed day.

Typically, the hottest time of the day is in the afternoon. BOM provide an hour-by-hour forecast. Based on this, if the afternoon temperatures are set to exceed 32 degrees, we will aim to run as many sessions as possible in the morning. We may in some cases adjust our pick-up slots to an earlier time.

Due to staffing and operational limitations, we do have a limit of how many walks we can run at the same time. This may result in not some dog's schedules being altered or cancelled. We will always do our best to get every pooch out.

It is likely sessions will be changed/ cancelled/ postponed at short notice due to the weather. We ask for your patience and understanding during this time. The team will always endeavour to communicate any changes as far in advance as possible.

In the case our team cancels a session, no charge will be made.

Important- We will provide greater flexibility with our Cancellation Policy. If you have any specific concerns related to your pooch and the summer ahead, please get in touch with one of the team.