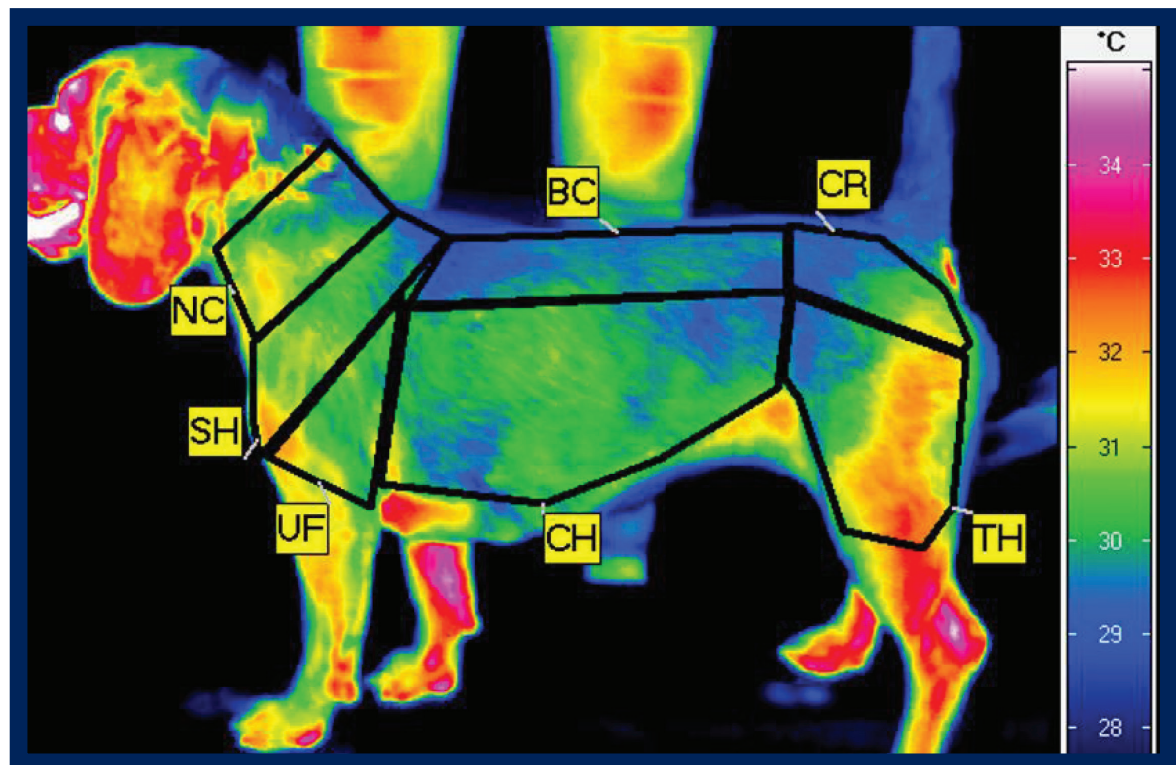


COOLING TECHNIQUES FOR RACING GREYHOUNDS



This is a thermogram of a Beagle after exercise. The areas that are coloured pink and red are hot spots for heat exchange. These are the places we need to concentrate on when cooling dogs.

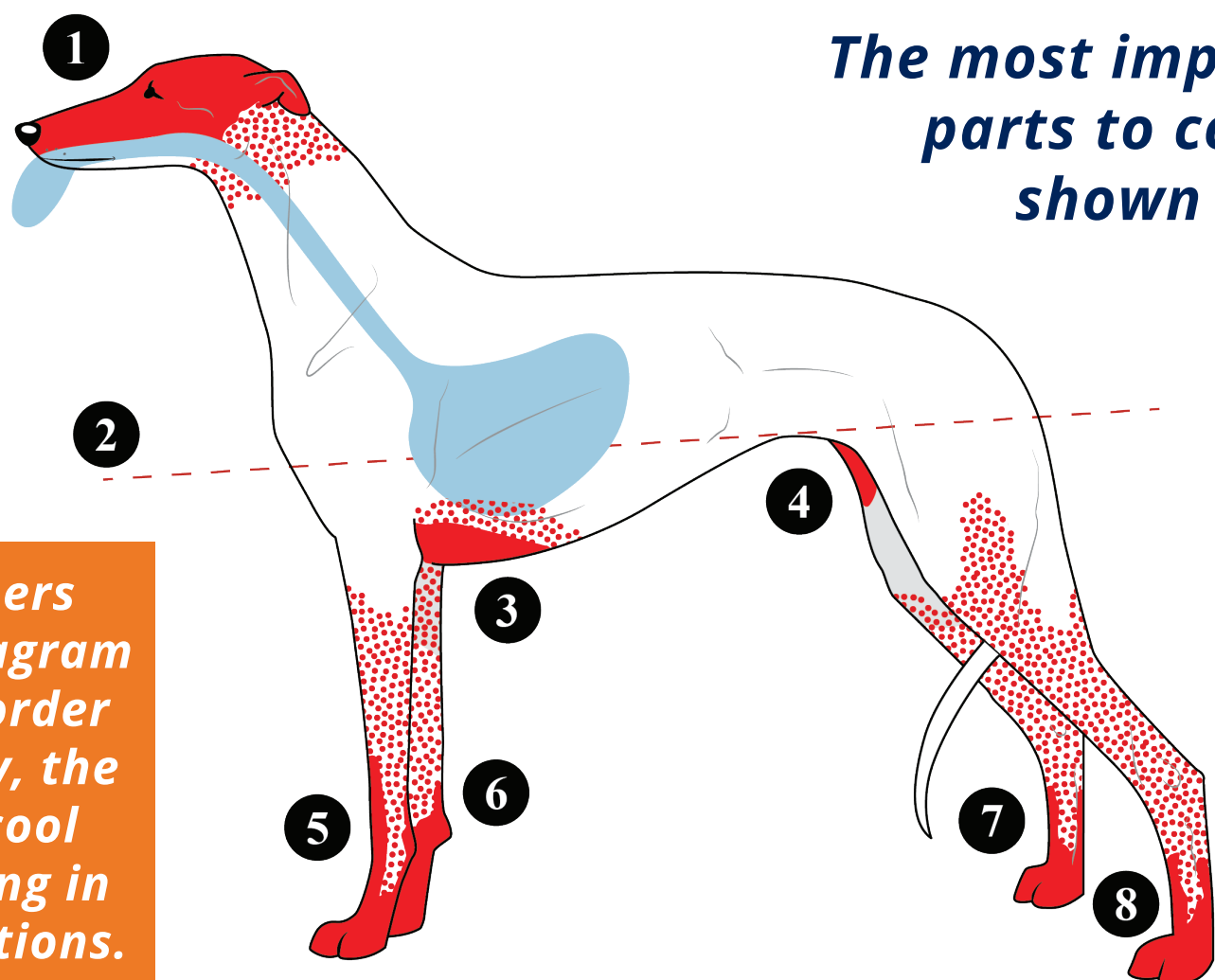
FIRST A DRINK



Provide water for the dog to drink.

This should be continuously available during the cooling process.

The numbers on the diagram show, in order of priority, the areas to cool after racing in hot conditions.



The most important parts to cool are shown in red.

A GREYHOUND'S THERMOGRAM

Greyhound: as in the thermogram above. Heat naturally moves down a temperature gradient, from a hot area to a cooler area, and by applying water to the skin surface we provide that gradient. Heat moves from the hot skin into the water, which is then discarded to the ground.

The blue area represents the tongue and lungs, which participate in evaporative heat loss, a different type of cooling, in which heat-laden moist air from the respiratory tract carries heat from inside the body out into the air.

OUR GUIDE TO COOLING YOUR GREYHOUND EFFICIENTLY

Priority

1

Water should be drizzled over the head and neck of the dog.

Priority

2

When dogs cool in their natural state, they tend to stand in water up to a line which covers most of the hot spots for heat exchange.



Priority

3

The chest area just behind the elbow.

The line runs from the point of the shoulder to the hip joint. Above this line there are minimal vascularized areas for heat exchange. On the thermogram above, see that the Beagle's lower neck, shoulder, back and croup are cool even after strenuous exercise. Below that line, however, are the most important 'hot spots', especially the chest and inguinal areas, and the lower extremities of the limbs and feet. Pass the hose along this line many times on one side, then turn the dog to concentrate on the same areas on the other side. The back area can be left dry.

Priority

4

The inguinal area is important target for cooling because it has large arteries which carry heat from the core of the body to the skin surface.

Priority

5

The feet: It is important to spend some time cooling the feet and to spray water between the toes for maximum benefit.

Priority

6 7 8

Both feet and lower extremities of the limbs.

Dogs do not have sweat glands in their feet, but they do have specialized vascular structures for heat transfer, where the arteries and veins run intermingled with each other, forming a counter-current heat exchange mechanism. Again, it is easy to see the very red skin of white dogs' legs after racing, indicating high levels of blood flow.

The ideal form of cooling is in an immersion tank, as all the hot spots are immersed in the water.

Take time to cool your dog. Continue cooling until panting eases. Dogs should not be returned to their kennels until total cooling is achieved.

If you are concerned about your dog's recovery rate, please see your OTV.