

Caring for Our Grass in the WA Summer Heat

Here at Dogs West, we take great pride in our grounds, including our large outdoor grassed areas, the Lower Arena and Main Arena. Many members have noticed that during the hotter months, the grass can look dry or browned — and it's important to understand why this happens and what we're doing to maintain it.

The Challenge

Western Australia's summer heat is extreme, with temperatures often exceeding 35°C. Even the hardiest grass struggles under this kind of heat stress. On top of this, our arenas see significant use during events: foot traffic, mats, crates, and gazebos all flatten and wear the grass. This combination of heat and heavy use means our grass naturally dries out and can brown, despite our best efforts.

What We're Doing

- **Adjusting Watering:** Our irrigation schedules are carefully managed to keep the grass as healthy as possible, even during heat waves. Our groundsman works hard to water the arenas as much as possible to keep moisture in the soil.
- **Monitoring Usage:** Where possible, we rotate areas or adjust layouts to prevent overuse of certain sections.
- **Maintenance Programs:** Regular aeration, mowing, and fertilisation help the grass recover from heavy use and extreme temperatures.

How Members Can Help

- **Use Matting:** Where appropriate, using mats under crates or equipment can reduce wear on the grass, but they can also smother it if left down too long. During multi-day events, please roll mats up overnight to let the grass "breathe."

- **Setup Awareness:** Placing gazebos and equipment in designated areas reduces stress on high-traffic spots.
- **Understand Seasonal Limits:** During peak summer months, some browning is inevitable despite all efforts.

Our goal is to provide the best possible environment for members and their dogs. By working together we can help keep our arenas in the best possible condition, even during the hottest months.