

Hot Weather Tips



When the weather gets hot, “even the healthiest pets can suffer from dehydration, heat stroke and sunburn if overexposed to the heat,” according to Dr. Lila Miller, ASPCA Vice President of Veterinary Outreach. Here are some simple precautions to help prevent your pet from overheating:

Know the Warning Signs

Signs of heat stress include heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue. These conditions are very serious and could lead to death.

If your pet does become overheated, you need to immediately lower his body temperature. Move your pet into the shade and apply cool (not cold) water over his body to gradually lower his core body temperature. Apply cold towels or ice packs to your pet’s head, neck, and chest only. Let your pet drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes. Most importantly, get him to a veterinarian immediately.

Be aware that older and overweight pets, as well as flat-faced breeds like Persian cats, pugs and bulldogs, are more likely to overheat in hot weather.

No Parking!

Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle – on a mild 73°F day, the temperature inside a car can reach 120°F in 30 minutes. On a 90°F day, the interior of a vehicle can reach 160°F in just a few minutes.



Street Smarts

When the temperature is high, don’t let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close to the ground, your dog’s body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks to a minimum during these times, too – better to exercise in the early morning or evening hours.

Made in the Shade

Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it’s hot outdoors. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful to not over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it’s extremely hot.

Summer Style

Giving your dog a lightweight summer haircut helps prevent overheating. Shave a medium- or long-hair dog down to a one inch length, never to the skin, so your dog still has some protection from the sun. Brushing cats more often than usual can prevent problems caused by excessive heat.

Screen Test

During warmer Northwest months, it’s tempting to leave windows and doors open. Animals can escape through open doors and cats can fall from open windows and be seriously injured. Keep all unscreened windows or doors in your home closed and make sure that all screen doors and adjustable window screens are tightly secured.

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