

Heat facts for pet parents!



No sweat



Dogs can only cool themselves down by sweating through their foot pads and panting. They cannot sweat like human beings. This, along with a fur coat, puts them at greater risk for overheating. Be sure to keep your pets in the shade or air conditioning whenever possible during summer months.

Consider senior and sick pets



Older dogs, dogs with hypothyroidism, and dogs with laryngeal paralysis are at greater risk for developing heat stroke. Talk to your family veterinarian about how to protect your pet from heat stroke if they suffer from one of these conditions such as keeping them indoors.

Stroke risk rises with humidity



Humidity will add to the risk of a pet overheating despite the temperature being lower than you'd expect to cause distress. Keep your pets indoors on warm humid days.

Oven on wheels



The temperature in a car, despite the windows being cracked open, can rise to well above 100 degrees in a matter of minutes. Under no circumstances should an animal be left in a car on warm days. Some states have fines and/or laws against leaving animals in cars.

Exercise responsibly



Exercise your dog in the morning or evening when it is less hot. Strenuous or vigorous exercise should be completely avoided in extreme heat. Talk to your family veterinarian about an appropriate exercise regimen for your dog before you begin.

Work on that beach body



Overweight dogs are much more susceptible to overheating and resultant heat stroke! Talk to your family veterinarian about a weight control program and feeding plan to keep your dog at a healthy body weight.

Different strokes



Heat stroke is a severe, life threatening problem that can develop in your pet in a matter of minutes under the wrong circumstances. Early signs of heat exhaustion include panting and an unwillingness to move. Life-threatening signs include increased body temperature, red or dark pink gums, inability to stand, and diarrhea or bloody diarrhea. Ask your family veterinarian about strategies to prevent this from happening to your pet.

Stay hydrated



In addition to keeping pets out of extreme heat by providing shade or bringing them indoors, make sure your pet also has unrestricted access to plenty of cool water throughout the day.

Pay attention to skin and fur



Pets with any kind of matting of the fur, or skin lesions, are at risk for maggot infestation (myiasis) during the warmer months. Eggs laid by flies in these areas hatch within days. Make an appointment to see your family veterinarian if you notice skin lesions or a foul odor on your pet.