



Summer Pet Care



How to Keep Your Pet Safe During Hot Weather

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Hot Weather Can Be Deadly

Many people think pets don't suffer in the heat like people do. Pets, like people, get used to the comfort of being inside during extreme weather.

Pets will suffer in hot weather if they are left outside too long. They can get overheated or dehydrated and even die if they are not cared for during the summer.



Make sure that your pet
is safe and comfortable
during hot weather.

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Visit the Vet

If your pet spends time outside, talk to your vet about safe heartworm, parasite, flea and tick prevention.



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Keep it Cool

Keep your pet inside as much as possible in the worst of hot weather.

Make sure your pet has access to a cool, shady spot.



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Identify Any Risk Factors

Very young and very old animals are more easily affected by the heat and should be watched very closely when outside in hot weather.

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Absolutely No Parking!

Never leave your pet in a parked car, no matter how briefly.

Temperatures inside a car, even with windows open, can skyrocket quickly and cause a fatal heatstroke.



Photo by R. Hulse / R. Rajagopal, University of Iowa



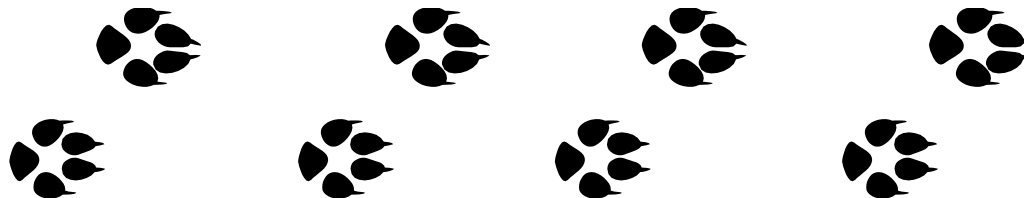
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Limit Exposure to Asphalt

The heat of the asphalt on your pet's feet can cause burns.

Being so close to the hot ground can also cause your dog to overheat.

Keep walks to a minimum during the hottest part of the day.



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Keep Water Flowing

Make sure your pet has fresh, clean water available at all times.



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Put the Chemicals Away



Commonly used rodenticides, insecticides and herbicides can be poisonous to pets.

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Not All Dogs Are Good Swimmers

If you allow your pet to go into the water, be sure to stay with them, at least at first.

Rinse your dog off when they come out of the water to remove chlorine or other pool chemicals from their skin.



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Keep Them Well-Groomed

You can trim the hair of long-haired pets, but DON'T shave them – your pet's hair helps keep their body temperature lower and prevents sunburns.

Brushing your cat more frequently can help reduce the effects of hot weather.

If you use sunscreen or bug-repellant on your pet, make sure it is approved for use on animals – check with your vet.



Symptoms of Overheating

If you notice any of these symptoms, move your pet to a cool location immediately. When the symptoms are serious, take them to the veterinarian:

- > excessive panting
- > difficulty breathing
- > increased heart and respiratory rate
- > drooling
- > mild weakness
- > stupor
- > vomiting
- > collapse



Thank You!



For more information, visit www.fchs.org.