

Hot Weather Safety Tips For Pets

The weather has been a little unpredictable lately, but it's safe to say that hot temperatures are just around the corner. Certain summer dangers like hot asphalt and car interiors are enough to rain on anyone's parade, especially for our furry friends. Follow our tips to keep yours safe this summer!



Never leave your pet in a car on hot day!

Cars trap heat – even parked in the shade with the windows open. Car interior temperatures can increase by 20% in 10 minutes, causing dehydration, heat stroke, organ damage or death to any animal left in a car. If it's over 75° outside, leave your pet at home! Check out our temperature gauge at weatherlink.com/user/shscartemp to see how hot it is in your car right now.

What to do if you see an animal in a car on a hot day

If you see an animal in a car on a hot day, here's how you can help: Take down the car's make, model and license-plate number. If there is a business nearby, notify personnel and ask them to make an announcement to find the car's owner. If the owner can't be found, call the non-emergency number of the local police or animal control and wait by the car for them to arrive.

Prevent Heatstroke and Heat-Related Problems

- Provide fresh drinking water at all times.
- Anytime your pets are outside, make sure they have access to cool, shady areas.
- Avoid walking or vigorous play with your dog during the heat of the day – early in the day or evenings are better on very hot days.
- Heat rises from hot pavement and can burn your pet's paws. How to tell if it's too hot? Press the back of your hand against the asphalt for several seconds to verify that it's comfortable enough for your pet to walk on. If not, stay on grassy surfaces or walk in shaded areas.
- An animal's coat helps regulate body temperature. Trimming your pet's fur won't help them handle the heat and may make them more susceptible to sunburn. Matted fur, however, will trap heat so brush or comb daily.
- Watch for signs of heatstroke: excessive panting, rapid breathing, lethargy, dizziness, lack of coordination or seizures. If your pet exhibits symptoms, move them to the shade or an air-conditioned area and apply cool towels; encourage hydration and take to your veterinarian immediately.



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