

## KEEP YOUR PET SAFE FROM SUMMER HEAT

Your vet is your best source of information on how to keep your pet safe from summer heat and sun, so be sure to consult with him or her. Also keep these precautions in mind:

Dogs and cats don't sweat like people do, so they have a harder time trying to cool themselves off. Some signs that your pet may be overheated may include excessive panting, increased heart rate, glazed eyes, unsteadiness, or vomiting.

During the hottest hours of the day, keep your pets in a cool place. Inside may be best, or outdoors in the shade might also be good. Many dogs enjoy running through sprinklers or splashing in a kiddie pool. Be sure to supervise your pet around water. Bring your pet indoors in threatening weather, such as summer thunderstorms.

Pets need to stay hydrated, so be sure to keep fresh water to drink available at all times. Outdoor water bowls should be in the shade. For longer walks, hikes, or trips bring water for your dog as well as yourself.

Concrete and asphalt can heat up quickly and burn your dog's paws. If the surface is too hot for you to rest your hand on comfortably for a few seconds, it is too hot for a dog to walk on safely.

Do not leave your pets in a vehicle in hot weather, even if the car is in the shade and the windows are left open a crack. Sunlight coming into the car through the windows will heat the vehicle quickly. Your pet can succumb to heatstroke in minutes with tragic results. According to the Humane Society, a car can heat up to a potentially fatal temperature in minutes. A dog that is overheated needs to get emergency vet care right away.

Play it safe and stay aware so your furry family members can enjoy the summer as much as you do.

### References:

[http://www.sparkpeople.com/blog/blog.asp?post=pets\\_and\\_the\\_summer\\_heat\\_how\\_to\\_keep\\_them\\_safe\\_and\\_cool](http://www.sparkpeople.com/blog/blog.asp?post=pets_and_the_summer_heat_how_to_keep_them_safe_and_cool)  
<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/help-dog-in-hot-car.html>