

Summer Safety

with Your Pet

Protect Your Pets From Heat Stroke

Heat stroke occurs when the body cannot maintain its temperature in a safe range.¹

Heat stroke in dogs can occur in situations such as:

- Being left inside a parked car
- Strenuous exercise in hot weather
- Being muzzled while under a hair dryer
- Being housed on concrete or asphalt
- Being housed without shade or water in hot weather



Normal body temperature of a dog is within 100 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit¹



Moderate heat stroke: body temperature from 104 to 106 degrees Fahrenheit¹



Severe heat stroke: body temperature over 106 degrees Fahrenheit¹



Moderate heat stroke: animal recovery can occur if body temperature can be lowered



Severe heat stroke: immediate veterinary care is needed, can be fatal¹

Never leave pets alone inside a parked car.



On an 85 degree day, for example, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die.³

Housing

- Animals that are outdoors need shade and water at all times
- Tarps and trees provide better shade than a dog house because they have air flow
- Dog houses can become stifling
- Water needs to be provided in a container that cannot be tipped over
- Animals that are chained or tethered can become wrapped around objects that make it impossible for the animal to get out of the sunlight or reach water



Antifreeze

- As the summer days get warmer, cars that overheat may leak antifreeze
- Pets are drawn to the sweetness of this toxic chemical
- Even when ingested in very small amounts, antifreeze is poisonous to animals, and a veterinarian should be contacted immediately
- Some public fountains may contain antifreeze, do not let your pet drink from them



Summer Travel With Your Pets

Before you begin your trip make sure to pack:

- Copies of veterinary health and shot records
- Name, phone number and office address of home veterinarian
- List of any medications
- First aid kit
- Extra leash and collar
- Address and phone number of veterinary clinics in areas that you will visit



Water Safety

Just as humans should wear life preservers when boating on open water, so should their pets. Accidents happen, and an animal life jacket could save a pet should it end up in the water unconscious or become too tired or too cold to swim before being rescued.



Use a lifejacket. Have your dog wear a life vest in a bright color in any body of water to help her stay afloat and ensure that she can be seen by swimmers and boaters. Let her get used to wearing it in your yard first.

Beware of currents and riptides. If a dog gets in trouble in one of these in the ocean, whether swimming or caught in a wave while fetching a ball, she can be swept out to sea in minutes. The same goes for rivers: you need to watch out for currents, even if they're not readily visible, as your dog can be easily carried downstream.



Be on the lookout in lakes. If your dog steps in a sinkhole, which may cause her to panic, you need to help her swim to where she can touch ground again. Avoid lakes and ponds with blue-green algae, signified by scummy water and a foul odor. Algae can produce a toxin that may cause severe sickness or seizures quickly if your pet ingests the water, by either drinking from the lake or licking tainted fur.



Manage Pesky Parasites that can make your pet miserable

The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) recommends the following guidelines for all animals in all parts of the country the year around:

- Monthly year-round use of flea and tick preventive products
- Monthly year-round administration of products that control internal parasites and control heartworms

Be smart about parasites! Consult with your vet for advice on the types of preventative parasite control measures available before a problem begins. Also, talk to your vet now for advice on year-round, safe and effective parasite control products, especially if you frequently travel with your pet.

Areas for pets to come into contact with flea & ticks:

- Dog run or park
- Backyard
- Kennels
- Dog houses
- Neighboring yards
- Woods, forests, or any areas with wildlife.⁴



1 - www.yourolddog.com/4085/how-to-identify-a-heatstroke-in-dogs/
2 - www.examiner.com/article/thou-sands-of-dogs-die-hot-cars-each-year-don-t-let-it-happen-to-yours
3 - www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/pets_safe_heat_wave.html
4 - www.cpcvet.org/expert-articles/parasite-control-in-pets-requires-year-round-vigilance/