



CREATING PAWSIBILITIES....ONE RESCUE AT A TIME

www.philanimalrescue.org

Hot Weather Pet Tips

Heat can be deadly for your pet. Cats and dogs do not have the ability to sweat; they cool their bodies off by panting and through the pads of their feet, so when the weather is extremely hot it is much harder for your pet to cool off. Here are some tips for keeping your pet safe this summer:



Pets in Cars – Know the Dangers!

Temperatures inside parked cars can jump 20 degrees in 10 minutes. Know the dangers of leaving pets in your car.

- **Never leave your dog in a parked car:** Even cracking a window won't protect your pets. It is against the law in California and could be punishable by a fine. A car can reach 120 degrees in just minutes; even if the windows are slightly open the car can still reach 102 degrees. A dog's normal temperature is 101.5 degrees; at 120 degrees your pet can suffer from heat exhaustion and die and at 107 degrees brain damage occurs.
- **Avoid extreme heat:** When temperatures get above the 90s, take your pet inside. For outdoor pets, be sure to provide them with plenty of fresh, cold water in a tip-proof water dish and shade for them to cool down
- **Don't exercise with your pets when it is too hot:** Older and certain long-haired dogs can be particularly susceptible to heat, and hot asphalt can burn their paws. Exercise in the early morning or evenings and make sure both of you have plenty of water. It will be easier on both of you.



CREATING PAWSIBILITIES....ONE RESCUE AT A TIME

www.philanimalrescue.org

- **Use sunscreen:** Pets get sunburned just like people, and if your pet has light skin, they can be particularly susceptible to a painful burn. Use sunscreen on sensitive areas, such as ears or nose to make sure your pets are protected.
- **Don't take your pets to crowded summer events:** The heat, noise, and crowds can be overwhelming to your pet. It is best to leave them at home in a quiet, cool environment.
- **Secure your dog during transport:** Make sure your dog is secured safely in your vehicle or tethered by a short rope or chain in the bed of your truck to prevent the dog from falling or jumping from the vehicle. Also, please note that truck beds can get hot when exposed to the sun and that can burn puppy toes. Transporting animals without properly securing the animal on a public highway or public roadway (exceptions for working dogs within agricultural or rural areas) is against the law in California and could be punishable by a fine. (County Ordinance 8.08.051)
- **Be your pet's lifeguard:** While swimming can help some of your pets get exercise without overheating, always supervise your pets when swimming either in a pool or in area waterways. A dog could get tired swimming, particularly if it is in the river and must fight against currents.

If your pet has been exposed to high temperatures...

- Be alert for signs of heat stress including heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red or purple tongue.
- Move your pet immediately to the shade to help lower their temperature immediately. Apply cool (not cold) water to the pet, apply ice packs and cool towels to your pet's head, neck, and chest.
- Take your pet to a veterinarian immediately. It could save its life.

Source: Sacramento County