



Summer Pet Tips FOR CATS & DOGS

ALL PETS ARE VULNERABLE TO THE HEAT.

It is harder for pets to get rid of body heat than it is for humans. Humans can sweat but our furry critters get rid of body heat through breathing and panting. The summer heat can cause the circulatory and respiratory systems to work harder resulting in heat stress.

A pet overheating can cause heatstroke, irreparable brain damage or even death.

Some signs of heatstroke are:

- Pet seems listless
- Labored panting or breathing
- Eyes are glazed
- Pet's body is hot to the touch

Normal body temperature for dogs and cats is 101.5 to 102.2 Fahrenheit. A pet will become very sick if his temperature rises above 103 and death can occur at 106.

If you suspect your pet has heatstroke, make every effort to cool the pet down quickly. Immerse your pet in cold water or wrap your pet in wet cold towels. Apply ice packs to head and neck.

CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY!

1. Do not leave pets in a car! Even with windows down, the temperature inside will rise to a dangerous level.
2. Outside pets should have adequate shade and water.
3. Have a child's shallow swimming pool so your dog can cool off.
4. Keep your pet brushed. By brushing your pet, you will keep hair free from tangles and mats which will help maintain a lower body temperature.
5. Avoid hot places such as garages or other unventilated enclosures.
6. Summer coats protect from sunburn or provide insulation from the heat. Talk to your veterinarian before you clip your pet's coat.
7. Walking or outdoor exercising your pet should be done early morning or late evening.

Most pets are comfortable in temperature controlled homes.



HOT CAR SAFETY

The temperature in a parked car, even in the shade with partly open windows, can rapidly reach a level high enough to seriously harm or even kill your pet.

Dogs cool themselves by panting and by releasing heat through their paws. The hot air and upholstery in vehicles prevents dogs from cooling themselves.

In as little as 10 minutes your vehicle can reach temperatures which can seriously harm your pet.

Estimated Vehicle Interior Air Temperature v. Elapsed Time*				
Elapsed Time	Outside Air Temp (F)			
0 minutes	70°	75°	85°	95°
10 minutes	89°	94°	104°	114°
20 minutes	99°	104°	114°	124°
30 minutes	104°	109°	119°	129°
40 minutes	108°	113°	123°	133°
50 minutes	111°	116°	126°	136°
> 1 hour	115°	120°	130°	140°

*Department of Geosciences, SFSU

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