

Hot Weather Tips

*Never leave your pet alone in a vehicle. Even with the windows open, a parked car, truck or van can quickly become a furnace on a hot day - and overheating can kill an animal. Parking in the shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day. Always carry a gallon of water for your pet.



*Don't force your animal to exercise after a meal in hot, humid weather. Exercise in the early morning or in the evening and keep walks to a minimum.

*Do not take an animal to the beach unless you can provide a shaded spot and plenty of fresh water for drinking. Rinse your pet off after they have been in salt water.

*Never leave your dog standing on hot asphalt. Their bodies can heat up quickly and their sensitive paws can burn.

*It's smart to provide plenty of shade and a well-constructed doghouse for animals staying outside. Bring your dog inside during the hottest part of the day and make sure there is plenty of water available. Keep cats indoors.

* Be extra sensitive to old and overweight animals in hot weather. Brachycephalic or snub-nose dogs such as bulldogs, pugs, Boston terriers, Lhasa-apsos and shih-tzus, as well as those with heart or lung disease, should be kept in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.



*Avoid walking your dog in areas that you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals. Be alert for coolant or other automotive fluid leaks from your vehicle. Animals are attracted to the sweet taste and ingesting just a small amount can be fatal. Call your veterinarian if you suspect that your animal has been poisoned.

*Keep your animal well groomed to stave off summer skin problems. Shaving a heavy coated dog's hair to one inch length helps prevent overheating. Don't shave the hair down to the skin, though, or you will rob him of protection from the sun. Cats should be brushed often.

*Bringing your companion animal to the veterinarian for a spring or early summer check up - including testing for heartworm disease. Ask your doctor to recommend a safe pest-control program to combat fleas and ticks.

*To prevent escape and accidental falls make sure all windows in your home are properly screened.