

# Hot Weather Pet Safety Tips

The experts at DoveLewis Emergency Animal Hospital ask all pet owners to remember to keep pets safe and out of the heat. Here are some recommendations from the staff at DoveLewis to ensure your pets stay cool and healthy.

## Never leave your pet in the car

It may seem like a car trip will cool off your pet, but it will probably do more harm than good. The sun can raise the temperature in the car to 120° F within minutes.

## Pets, like humans, need extra water

Whether you're indoors or out, both you and your pet need access to lots of fresh water during the summer, so check water bowls several times a day to be sure it's full. If you go outside, be sure to bring plenty of water for both of you.

## Signs of Heatstroke

Panting  
Staring  
Warm, Dry Skin  
High Fever  
Anxious Expression  
Rapid Heartbeat  
Refusal to Obey Command  
Vomiting  
Wobbly Gait  
Collapse

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#1 CHOICE FOR ANIMAL EMERGENCIES



## Pets need sunscreen

Your pet can get sunburned, just like you! Especially if he or she has light colored hair. Animal sunburns can cause some of the same problems as with people: pain, peeling, and skin cancer. Keep your pet out of the sun between 10:00AM and 4:00PM. When you do go outside, rub a bit of pet safe sunblock on unprotected areas like the tips of the ears, the skin around the lips, and the tip of the nose. Some sunblock can be dangerous to your pets. A rule of thumb: If it's safe for babies, it's safe for your pets.

## Watch the exercise

Don't overdo it in the heat. Keep walks to a gentle pace, and make them short. If your pet is panting a lot or seems exhausted, it's time to stop. Warm weather exercise followed by a trip home in a hot car may have deadly repercussions.

## Inside is better than outside

Even if they're in the shade, animals can get sick quickly on hot days. Keep them inside as much as possible. If you have to leave them outside, check on them regularly.

# Watch for Heatstroke

## Heatstroke can be fatal

If you suspect your pet has heatstroke, call a veterinarian immediately. In the meantime, remove the animal from the heat and continuously wet down the animal thoroughly by spraying or pouring cool water over the animal. Make sure there is complete penetration of the hair coat and that the belly and groin areas are wetted down as well. Avoid complete immersion in water because heat cannot leave the body as effectively. If available use a fan to help cool the animal while it is wet. Often the pet will respond after only a few minutes of cooling, only to falter again with his temperature soaring back up or falling to well below what is normal. With this in mind, remember that it is imperative to get the animal to a veterinarian immediately.

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