



## WARM WEATHER SAFETY TIP SHEET

**WARM WEATHER SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR PET** – Just as humans can suffer and be at risk during extreme heat and humidity, our companion animals can also suffer. Here are some tips to keep your cats and dogs safe during the extreme summer temps.

### **CATS**

- **Provide cool, fresh air ventilation.** Use a sturdy fan, ceiling fan, open screened window(s), or an air conditioner - especially in severely hot temperatures. While cats are not particularly fond of cold air, an air conditioned room is essential during scorching weather to keep your pet cool and safe.



- **Make sure window screens are secure** – Cats and even some dogs, love to sit in windowsills and enjoy the great outdoors from a safe perch. And as cats are prone to do, stretching on a nice screen is a perfect ending to their sunny siesta. That makes it crucial to have sturdy window screens that are securely attached and which are free of holes and tears.

- **Provide fresh clean cool water throughout the day.** Cats can become dehydrated and need twenty-four hour access to water.



- **Slip ice cubes in drinking water.** This will help keep the water cool and drinkable.
- **Provide multiple bowls of drinking water throughout the house.** Having multiple water bowls around the house will entice your cat to drink more, ensuring enough fluids during hot weather.
- **Stationery water bowls.** These are the spill-free bowls that will ensure the water doesn't accidentally end up on the floor.
- **Don't let wet food sit out too long.** Dry food can be left out all day, but if you feed wet food, it's good to remove it after feeding time and replace it with fresh food during the next meal so it doesn't spoil.
- **Never leave your cat alone while you go away for a few days!** You might be asking, "Who would do that?", but we probably would be surprised at the number of pet owners who do this. If you will be away from home for a day or more, make sure that you have a responsible person in charge of your pet's care.



- **Don't let your cat outdoors during a heat wave!** Even though cats enjoy warm weather, letting your cat outside during a heat wave could be a fatal mistake. Keep kitty indoors until the heat wave passes.

- **Keep an eye out for sunburn** – Cats and dogs alike can be susceptible to sunburn on their ears and noses. Visit with your vet about what options you may have to prevent these areas from burning and if your pet has suffered a burn, seek immediate veterinary care.



- **Never leave your cat in a hot car!** As with dogs, this is just plain common sense; but...pets die every year from heatstroke because of this neglectful act.
- **Provide a shady spot in your home.** Cats seem to love sunny rooms; but, in a heat wave, they will need a place to comfortably retreat to when the heat becomes dangerous. If their normal sun soaked area becomes unreasonably hot, close this area off and don't let the cat in the room until it cools down.

## DOGS

- **Keep Fresh Cool Water Available.** One of the most important things to remember for dogs in hot weather is to make sure their water bowl is always full. If the water bowl is



outside, choose a light colored plastic or ceramic bowl rather than a metal one that can easily heat up in the sun. If possible, keep the water bowl in a shady area of the yard so that the water stays cool, and check it frequently to ensure your pup isn't being scalded by a supposed refreshment.

- **Keep Your Pets Inside** - Dogs love the yard (or in the case of this Springer Spaniel, the beach!), but if you're going to be gone for long days this summer, it may be safer to keep your dog in the house where they can lounge safely in the air conditioning. If you must leave



your dog in hot weather in the yard, be sure there is plenty of shade. Dogs are susceptible to heat exhaustion and sunburn, so shade can be a life-saver.

- **Take a Dip** - Swimming can be a great way to help dogs cool off in hot weather. If you don't have access to a safe lake or river for your pooch to have a swim, kiddie pools in the backyard work great. Check the water occasionally to make sure it hasn't heated up. Keep your pets away from chlorine swimming pools, as the chemicals may be harmful if swallowed. But be cautious about allowing a dog in a pool. Many pet tragedies occur because a pool is too deep or difficult for a pet to get out of. And remember that not every dog swims and as with humans, it is a learned activity.



- **Take Walks in the Early Morning and Evening** - Schedule your daily walks for times when the sun isn't in full force. Avoid hot asphalt, as this can be devastating to bare paws. Instead find a place where the dog can walk on grass. The City's dog park is a great place to let your dog burn off some energy. But keep a close eye to make sure the dog isn't overly exerting itself in the hot sun.

- **Visit the Groomer** - Dogs in hot weather are much happier when they don't have to drag all that fur around. Give your pooch a shorter haircut. It's best for the fur not to be shaved below 1/4 inch, though, since then the naked pup is susceptible to sunburn. And please remember, some breeds like Husky's aren't recommended to have their fur shaved. your Veterinarian for the best advice.



- **Summer Treats** - While you're enjoying watermelon pay attention to what you're dog, and make sure any barbeque guests supervise the dog if you're offering bones. One great summer treat for dogs Most dogs love them, and ice cubes will busy and hydrate them at the same time. for you too!

Check with ice cream and feeding the know the him tasty is ice cubes. keep them That's a treat

This information was compiled from several different sources on the web, but with all health related issues, readers are encouraged to contact their own veterinarians for the best advice in each particular situation.