

# Hot Weather Tips



**Please follow these guidelines to protect your companion animal when the temperatures get warmer.**

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- **Overheating (heat prostration) can kill an animal.** Never leave an animal alone in a vehicle, since even with the window open, a parked car can quickly become a furnace. Parking in the shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day. When traveling, carry a gallon thermos filled with fresh cold water.
  - **Don't force your animals to exercise after a meal in hot, humid weather.** Always exercise him in the early morning or evening.
  - **In extremely hot weather, do not leave your dog standing on the street, and keep walks to a minimum.** He is much closer than you and the hot asphalt, and his body can heat up quickly. His paws can also burn, since they are not protected by shoes.
  - **Never take an animal to the beach unless you can provide a shaded spot and plenty of fresh water to her to drink.** Rinse her off after she has been in salt water.
  - **Always provide plenty of shade for an animal staying outside.** A properly constructed dog house serves best. Bring your dog inside during the hot time of the day and let her rest in a cool part of the house. Provide plenty of cool water. Keep cats indoors.
  - **Be sensitive to old and overweight animals in hot weather.** Brachycephalic (snub-nosed) dogs (especially bulldogs, Pekingese, Boston terriers, Lhasa apsos, and shih tzus) and those with heart or lung diseases should be kept in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.
  - **Keep a current license and identification tag on your animal.** Consider microchipping as permanent identification.
  - **Avoid walking your dog in areas that you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals, as poisonings increase during the summer when gardens, lawns and trees are sprayed.** These chemicals can sicken or kill an animal. Call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (contact information below) if you suspect that your animal has been poisoned.
  - **Be alert for coolant leaking from your vehicle.** Animals are attracted to the sweet taste of coolant, and ingesting just a small amount can cause an animal's death. Try animal-friendly products that use propylene glycol rather than those contain ethylene glycol.
  - **A clean coat can prevent summer skin problems; keep our animal well-groomed.** Shaving heavy-coated dog hair to a one-inch length helps prevent overheating. Don't shave the hair down to the skin; this robs the dog of protection from the sun. A cat should be brushed often for a tangle-free coat.
  - **Take your companion animal to the veterinarian for a spring or early summer check-up.** Include a test for heartworm if your dog isn't on a year-round preventative medication. Have the doctor recommend a safe and effective flea-and-tick-control program.
  - **Never tie an animal outside on a correction collar.** He can choke to death. If you must tether him, use an overhead trolley system with a buckle collar.
  - **Never let your animal loose outside. An animal can contract a fatal disease or be injured killed or stolen.** Be sure there are no open, unscreened windows or doors through which your animal can fall or jump.
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**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center  
1-888-4ANI-HELP**