

Hot Weather Tips



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

- ***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**