

KEEPING YOUR PETS COOL THIS SUMMER



Animals are particularly vulnerable to the risk of heat stroke during a heatwave. Taking a few precautions during the hot summer months will help your pets keep their cool.

Heat symptoms

- Heat stress or heatstroke — usually caused by confinement in poor ventilated areas, inadequate shade, water and exercising in hot, humid weather.
- Dehydration — caused by a lack of adequate drinking water.
- Sunburn — pets with white non-pigmented skin are especially vulnerable to sunburn.
- Burnt paws — veterinarian attention may be required when paws are swollen and your pet is in pain.

Heatwave safety tips for your pets

- Have your pets hair clipped when the weather heats up, especially long-haired breeds of cats and dogs.
- Provide adequate shade — kennels should never be placed in direct sunlight and they should be adequately insulated.
- Ensure there is access to more than one bowl of water — in case one is accidentally spilled — placed in a cool, accessible spot. To keep the water cool, place a frozen ice block in the water bowl.
- Do not exercise your dog during a heatwave — take your dog for a gentle walk in the cooler early morning or late evening hours.
- Bird cages should have adequate ventilation and be in the shade all day.
- Move any other small animal cages (rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, mice) to a cool, shaded area with ventilation.

Signs of heatstroke in your pet

- Panting, sweating, salivating and difficulty breathing.
- Vomiting.
- High body temperature (above 40° C).
- Dehydration.
- Depression, lethargic (acting drunk).
- Shock.
- Seizure, collapse or coma.

First aid for a pet with heat stroke

- Get the animal out of the direct heat.
- Hose down the animal with cool water or use anything you can to wet your animal.
- Place water soaked towels on head, neck, chest, paws and abdomen.
- Contact your local veterinarian immediately for further advice or treatment.



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