

# SUMMER SAFETY PET TIPS



Temperatures are soaring along the Gulf Coast and for pets, the heat can quickly cause serious injury or even death. The Houston SPCA shares these tips to help keep your pet safe throughout the summer.

## **NEVER LEAVE YOUR PETS IN A PARKED CAR**

Not even for a minute. Not even with the windows cracked. On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels. On an 85-degree day, for example, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die.

## **PROVIDE PLENTY OF SHADE AND WATER**

Any time your pet is outside, make sure they have protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse.

## **COOL YOUR PET INSIDE AND OUT**

Always provide water, whether your pets are inside or out with you. You can also provide a small, inexpensive plastic pool for help large dogs keep cool.

## **LIMIT WALKS ON HOT DAYS**

Limit exercise to early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, who are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets, who typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating.

## **WATCH FOR SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE**

Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure and unconsciousness.

## **HOW TO TREAT A PET SUFFERING FROM HEATSTROKE**

Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to their head, neck and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them. Let them drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take them directly to a veterinarian.



**Have a fun  
and safe  
summer!**



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