



WARM WEATHER TIPS FOR PETS

Warm weather can be hazardous for animals. It is important to make sure your companion animals are prepared for the hot summer months.

The Nashville Humane Association recommends the following guidelines when the temperature heats up:

Hot Weather Tips:

- Do not leave your pet in the car, as your pet can suffer serious health effects, even death, in a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do *not* provide sufficient air.
- It is not recommended to chain dogs for long periods of time. A pet confined in a shady area in the morning can be in the hot sun later in the day.
- Water bowls need to be placed and secured in a manner that prevents spilling. Adequate water during extreme temperatures is critical to preventing dehydration and assisting the pet's body in cooling.
- The symptoms of heatstroke and over heating can be disorientation, staggered walking, excessive panting, collapse, and difficulty breathing. If heatstroke is suspected, begin to cool the pet with a cool, but not cold bath, or stroke the body with cool wet cloths. It is extremely important to seek veterinary care immediately.
- If you jog with your pet, it is recommended you do so in the early or late hours of the day, when it is cooler.
- Always carry a gallon thermos filled with cold, fresh water when traveling with your pet.
- Provide fresh water and plenty of shade for animals kept outdoors; a properly constructed doghouse serves best. Bring your dog or cat inside during the heat of the day, and during heat advisories, to rest in a cool part of the house.
- Please make sure that there are no open, unscreened windows or doors in your home through which animals can fall or jump.
- Street smarts: When the temperature is very high, don't let your dog stand on hot asphalt. His or her body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.