

Summertime **PetFacts**

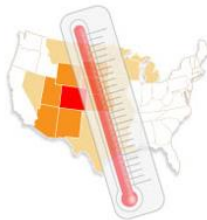
Safety for Your Pet

Summertime is for walking and playing in the sunshine with your pet. Unfortunately, pets have a harder time keeping cool when the temperatures soar. Be mindful of the heat and keep your pet cool to protect him from heat-related illness and injury.



Credit: Humane Society of Carroll County, Westminster, Maryland

22,356
daily record high temperatures have been set across the U.S. from January to June in 2012



120°F
On an 85 degree day, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 120 degrees within 30 minutes.



Keeping Safe in the Summer Heat

- Never leave your pet in a car when you travel or do errands.
- On very hot days, limit exercising your pet to early morning or evening hours.
- Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws.
- Pets with light-colored noses or light-colored fur on their ears are particularly vulnerable to sunburn and skin cancer. Use sunscreen on their noses and ear tips.

Heat Stroke

Dogs and cats can't perspire and can only dispel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. If you suspect heat stroke in your pet, seek veterinary attention immediately.

Signs of heat stroke include (but are not limited to):

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- Body temperatures of 104-110F degrees
 - Excessive panting
 - Dark or bright red tongue and gums
 - Sticky or dry tongue and gums
 - Staggering
 - Stupor
 - Seizures
 - Bloody diarrhea or vomiting
 - Rapid heartbeat

Note: Short-nosed breeds such as Bulldogs, Pugs, etc., large heavy-coated breeds, and dogs with heart or respiratory problems are more at risk for heat stroke.

Cooling Your Pet

- Find some shade. Get your pet out of the heat.
- Use cool water, not ice water, to cool your pet (very cold water will constrict the blood vessels and impede cooling).
- Place cool wet cloths on feet and around head.
- Offer ice cubes for the animal to lick.
- Contact your veterinarian.