



Hot Weather Tips

- **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.
- **Do not leave your dog standing on the street** in extremely hot weather, 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 unknown lawns** 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 that 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.