

PETS & HOT WEATHER

Understanding heat stress & helping your pets keep cool in hot weather

Helpful Tips

- Make sure your pets have plenty of cool drinking water & always put out an extra bowl or two in case one gets knocked over.
- Most dogs love to play in water, especially when it's warm - perhaps invest in a small paddle pool.
- If you have air-conditioning, consider bringing your pets inside where it's cooler.
- Ensure pets that are outside have good access to shade - consider the movement of the sun throughout the day.
- Freeze some water with healthy treats inside a take away container & leave it out for your pets to enjoy.
- Do not exercise your pets in the middle of the day - this can quickly lead to heat stress as well as cause burns & damage to their pads
- **NEVER** leave your pet unattended in a vehicle.
- Remember that very young, senior, overweight or unwell pets are at most risk in very hot weather.
- In case of an emergency, have the contact details of your Vet & local Emergency Centre easily accessible.



Heat Stress & Heatstroke

Heat stress is caused by a significant increase in body temperature. It can escalate quickly into Heatstroke, which can have tragic results. It's vitally important we all know the keys signs of heat stress and react immediately.

Signs of heat stress include:

- excessive salivating
- weakness & lethargy
- shaking
- dry nose & gums
- whining
- constant panting

Extreme cases of heat stress include:

- dark purple coloured tongue
- vomiting & seizures leading to death

Treatment Options

If your pet is showing any of these signs, seek **immediate** Veterinary attention. Move them into a cool area & direct a fan towards them. **Do not** bath or shower your pet in cold water - they must be cooled down in a controlled manner.