



SUMMER HEALTH ALERT: HOT TIPS TO KEEP PETS COOL

Dogs and cats can suffer from the same problems that humans do--overheating, dehydration and even sunburn--when the mercury rises. By taking a few simple precautions, you can keep your animal companions happy and healthy in hot weather:

- Exercise your dog in the early morning or evening--never when it's especially hot or humid. Take care not to let your dog stand on hot asphalt, as his sensitive paw pads can easily burn.
- Provide plenty of shade and cool, fresh water for animals kept outdoors, but bring your cat or dog inside during the hottest part of the day, and let him rest in a cool part of the house.
- Never leave your animal alone in a vehicle. Overheating can be fatal. Even with the doors open, a parked automobile can quickly become a furnace.
- Some animals need extra special care in hot weather, especially those who are elderly and overweight or have heart or lung disease. Breeds of dogs with short muzzles, including pugs, bulldogs, lhasa apsos and shih tzus, also need extra attention on hot days. If your pet is showing signs of exhaustion or heat stroke, such as rapid breathing and heart rate, panting, vomiting or warm, dry skin, take him to your veterinarian immediately.

