



Summer Heat Pet Safety Tips

City of Los Angeles • Department of Animal Services
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www.LAAnimalServices.com

PROTECT YOUR PETS FROM SUMMER HEAT

As temperatures reach record levels, you need to take special precautions to protect companion animals from potentially dangerous summer heat.

Heat strokes occur when the body's natural mechanisms of heat loss are overwhelmed. Symptoms include heavy panting, increased heart rate, weakness, vomiting or diarrhea. Heat stroke can lead to shock, coma and even death.

Heat stroke can afflict both dogs and cats. Short-muzzled dogs such as Pekinese, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Boxers and Pugs are most prone. Dogs and cats that are obese, geriatric or suffer from heart conditions are also at risk. Remember these safety tips to protect your animal from summer heat:

- The best place for a pet during the hot summer months is at home, where the animal can enjoy plenty of water and shade in comfortable and familiar surroundings.
- Keep indoor animals in a well-ventilated area.
- Make sure plenty of shade and cool, fresh water is available for animals kept outside. Heavy weighted water bowls work best because they reduce the risk of accidental spills.
- Exercise pets early in the morning or late in the evening when temperatures are cooler.
- Make sure your dog is on a leash and properly tethered when enjoying the outdoors. All dogs have the potential to bite!
- Make sure collars are not on too tight.
- Feed your pets late in the evening as heat can reduce a dog's appetite.
- Never leave your animal in a closed car on a hot day. Even with windows left open a crack, the temperature inside a car can reach 120 degrees in less than 30 minutes.
- Do not take your companion animals to a public beach - it is against State law and City ordinance. Beaches are off-limits to all dogs, whether or not on a leash. The only exception is if your animal is a registered seeing-eye dog.
- If you suspect heat stroke, immediately move the animal to a cool spot and quickly cool with a cold-water bath. The animal's body temperature must be brought down so that brain damage does not occur. When cooling your dog off, avoid hypothermia by reducing the animal's body temperature to a level slightly above normal (about 103 degrees). Take your pet to a veterinarian for additional care as soon as possible.
- Be aware of animal safety in the summer. If you see a pet suffering and untended in a hot car, immediately report the incident to your closest animal shelter or to a police officer.

For more information, call
1-888-4LA-PET1 / 1-888-452-7381
(TTY Hearing Impaired: 877-875-8205)
www.LAAnimalServices.com