

# HEAT STROKE IN DOGS



For pets that are sensitive to heat, the steamy summer months are not only uncomfortable, but they are also the time when the risk of fatal heatstroke is highest. Thousands of pets die needlessly every summer from over-exposure to heat. Heat stroke is an emergency that needs medical attention as soon as possible. Even before you take your pet to the vet, however, you need to start cooling them body down by putting them in a tub of cool water (applying wet towels or ice packs to their body) If your dog is in the car-turn the air conditioner on high and get to the vet as quickly as you can.

## Signs:

- Pet is panting a lot even when the temperature is cool.
- Appears tired during the warm months
- Gums are suddenly bright red

## Cause:

Dogs and cats don't take off their coats in warm weather, and they don't sweat like people do. Pets pant to dispel heat, but it isn't a very efficient system.

## Solution:

- Encourage pet to drink water (ice chips, ice cubes, throughout the day).
- Spritz them with a hose, encourage them to lie in a kiddie pool or spritz the grass where they play.
- To replace electrolytes, give several tablespoons of Gatorade or Pedialyte in their water.
- Put them in front of a fan or near an air conditioner will circulate air through the fur and keep them cool.
- Watch for dehydration. To check for dehydration, pinch the area between the shoulder blades, lift, and let go. The skin should snap back into its usual position when you let go. Skin that stays in the pinched position for 3 to 5 seconds is a sign that your pet is dehydrated.

**Never leave your pet in a closed car without the air conditioning on.**

Elapsed Time (minutes)	Outside Air Temperature (°F)					
	70	75	80	85	90	95
0	70	75	80	85	90	95
10	89	94	99	104	109	114
20	99	104	109	114	119	124
30	104	109	114	119	124	129
40	108	113	118	123	128	133
50	111	116	121	126	131	136
60	113	118	123	128	133	138
More than 1 hour	115	120	125	130	135	140

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Know the facts, please.