



SUMMER HEAT AND YOUR PETS

At Upstate Vet, we want you to have a fun and safe summer with your pet. Unfortunately, we see heatstroke and other heat-related issues much more often than you'd think. Please continue reading for tips to keep your pet safe this summer.

HOT CARS

You've heard horror stories on the news and it's true: the interior of a parked car on a warm day can reach fatal temperatures in minutes. This is the case even when parked in the shade with the window cracked, on a seemingly cool and breezy day. NEVER leave your pet in the car on a warm day, even for just a quick pit stop.

OTHER CULPRITS

Many seemingly harmless spaces can reach high temperatures quickly without proper airflow, fresh water, or shade. In addition to the garage, decks, rooftops, outdoor events, and even your own backyard! Even if that fresh water and shade are available to your pet at all times, realize that they need air conditioning and proper ventilation much as we do.

PAW BURNS

Your pet's paws are not immune to the heat of the ground and they aren't able to slip on flip flops like we can. If you can't hold your hand to the ground for at least 10 seconds without feeling a burn, the surface is too hot for your pet to walk on. Pets can suffer severe burns on their paws from walking on hot surfaces.

SIGNS OF HEAT DISTRESS

- Increased rectal temperature
- Anxiety
- Vigorous panting
- Dark red gums, tongue, or mouth
- Lying down and unwilling/unable to get up
- Dizziness or disorientation
- Collapse and/or loss of consciousness

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR PET HAS HEATSTROKE

Act quickly. Remove your pet from the hot area.

- Call your primary veterinarian immediately. If they can't reach, call a 24/7/365 emergency hospital at 864-233-7650.
- As you seek medical attention, lower your pet's temperature by placing them in cool (not cold) water, and increase air movement with fans.
- When your pet's rectal temperature drops to 101.5°F, stop all efforts.



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