

TOP TIPS – for warm weather

- Your dog should always be able to move into a cooler, ventilated environment if he/she is feeling hot.
- Never leave your dog alone in a car. If you want to take your dog with you on a car journey, make sure that your destination is dog-friendly – you won't be able to leave your dog in the car and you don't want your day out to be ruined!
- If you have to leave your dog outside, you must provide a cool, shady spot where he/she can escape from the sun at all times of the day.
- Make sure your dog always has a good supply of drinking water, in a weighted bowl that can't be knocked over. Carry water with you on hot days and give your dog frequent small amounts.
- Never leave your dog in a glass conservatory or a caravan. Even if it is cloudy when you leave, the sun may come out later in the day and make it unbearably hot.
- Groom your dog regularly to get rid of excess hair. Give long-coated breeds a hair-cut at the start of summer, and later in the season, if necessary.
- Dogs need exercise, even when it is hot, but walk your dog early in the morning or later in the evening. Never allow your dog to exercise excessively in hot weather.
- Dogs can get sunburned too – particularly those with light coloured noses or light coloured fur on their ears – ask your vet for advice on pet-safe sunscreen.



ANDREW LINSKOTT/RSPCA PHOTOLIBRARY



STAY COOL

On a warm day cars heat up like ovens so don't take your dog along for the ride.



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KEEP COOL – dogs die in hot cars

If it's warm outside and you're going out in the car, think very carefully about what you are going to do with your dog. You should never leave a dog alone in a car.

It can get unbearably hot in a car on a sunny day, even when it's not that warm. In fact, when it's just 22°C/72°F outside, the temperature inside a car can soar to 47°C/117°F within 60 minutes.

Unlike humans, dogs pant to help keep themselves cool. In a hot stuffy car, dogs can't cool down – leaving a window open or a sunshield on your windscreen won't keep your car cool enough. Dogs die in hot cars.

You now have a legal duty to care for your animal and if you put your animal at risk you could face prosecution. You would also have to live with the fact that your thoughtless action resulted in terrible suffering for your pet.

ANGELA HAMPTON/RSPCA PHOTOLIBRARY



HEATSTROKE – early warning

Some dogs are more prone to heatstroke. For example, dogs with short snouts, fatter or heavily muscled dogs and long-haired breeds as well as very old or very young dogs. Dogs with certain diseases are also more prone to heatstroke, as are dogs on certain medication.

If dogs are unable to reduce their body temperature, they will develop heatstroke. These are some signs to look out for:

- **HEAVY PANTING**
- **PROFUSE SALIVATION**
- **A RAPID PULSE**
- **VERY RED GUMS/TONGUE**
- **LETHARGY**
- **LACK OF CO-ORDINATION**
- **RELUCTANCE OR INABILITY TO RISE AFTER COLLAPSING**
- **VOMITING**
- **DIARRHOEA**
- **LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES.**

HEATSTROKE – first aid

If your dog shows any symptoms of heatstroke, move him/her to a shaded, cool area and ring your vet for advice immediately. Heatstroke can be fatal and should always be treated as an emergency.

Dogs suffering from heatstroke urgently need to have their body temperature gradually lowered:

- immediately douse your dog with cool (not cold) water, to avoid shock – you could put your dog in a shower and run cool water over him/her or use a spray filled with cool water and place your dog in the breeze of a fan
- let your dog drink small amounts of cool water
- continue to douse your dog with cool water until his/her breathing starts to settle – never cool your dog so much that he/she begins to shiver.

ONCE YOU HAVE COOLED YOUR DOG DOWN YOU SHOULD TAKE HIM/HER STRAIGHT TO THE VETERINARY SURGERY.

HEATSTROKE CAN BE FATAL. DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO PREVENT IT.