

Heat wave: Caring for pets

It is important to keep yourself cool and healthy during extremely hot weather, but it is also important to think about your pets and other animals. Like people, animals can suffer heatstroke in hot weather if they don't keep cool.

- If possible, bring your pets inside when it is very hot.
- If they can't be left inside, make sure there are some sheltered shady spots in the garden where your pet can rest. Check there will be shade at all times of day, as that will change depending on the position of the sun.
- Don't leave pets in closed garden sheds or garages, as these can heat up very quickly on a hot day.
- Make sure your pets have plenty of clean, fresh water to drink and that it is not placed in the sun. Putting ice blocks in your pet's water during the day will help keep it cool.
- Consider having two drinking bowls in case one runs out of water or gets knocked over.
- Don't leave your pet's food outside in the heat. If your pet does not eat its food when first given, bring it inside and put in the fridge until later.
- If you have a dog, avoid walking it in the heat. Take it for a walk in the early morning or evening when it is cooler.
- Don't let your dog walk on hot surfaces (pavements, bitumen roads, hot sand), as their paws are sensitive and can get burnt.
- **Never leave pets alone in a car in any circumstance**, even if the windows are partly open.

What to do if your pet shows signs of heat stress

- If your pet shows signs of heat stress (sweating, panting and drooling, tongue hanging out) move them to a cool place and try to get them to drink water, even if you have to pour some into their mouth.
- If a dog shows signs of being overheated, the best way to cool it off is to get it to stand in water up to its belly. Dogs will cool off faster this way than being sprayed with water.
- Old or very young animals can get stressed very quickly during hot weather and need watching carefully for signs that they may be heat stressed.
- Contact a Vet without delay if you are worried that your animal is suffering from the heat. This could save your pet's life.



Further information on how to cope and stay healthy in times of extreme heat can be found on our website www.public.health.wa.gov.au

