

Hot Weather and Outdoor Pets

What you need to know to keep your pets safe during the summer season



There are several factors to consider when outdoors in the heat with your pet. Depending on the size, breed and age of your pet, animals can start feeling the effects of heat at temperatures as low as 70°F. Dangerous heat conditions can begin at or around 85°F.

- Make sure your pet has access to fresh, clean water and shade.
- Never leave a pet alone in a parked car.
- Limit outside time as temperatures increase.
- Limit exercise duration and to the early morning and evening hours.
- If your dog has excess energy and needs playtime during the day, hard plastic kiddie pools great way to burn off energy while keeping your dog cool during the summer heat.

Surfaces like asphalt or pavement can reach temperatures of 125°F at an outside temperature of only 75°F. Dog and cat paws can be just as sensitive as their owner's feet. To test if it's too hot to walk, place the back of your hand on the surface in question for seven seconds. If you struggle to keep it there the entire time, it's too hot to walk.

NEVER LEAVE AN ANIMAL ALONE IN A HOT CAR

- If you see an animal alone in a parked car, call local law enforcement and stay with the animal.
- It is legal in the state of Kansas for Good Samaritans to remove an animal from a car where there is "imminent danger of harm," after law enforcement has been notified.

Know the signs of possible heat stroke:

- Excessive prolonged panting.
- Excessive drooling.
- Dark red and/or tacky tongue/gums.
- Staggering, lethargy, collapse.
- Vomiting and diarrhea.
- High heart rate.
- Body temperature above 104°F.

If your pet experiences any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.



Contact the Great Plains SPCA HERO Team at HERO@greatplainssPCA.org for assistance providing a pet with proper shelter or if you know of a pet in need. The HERO Team will provide crates and training information for bringing outdoor pets inside, especially during dangerously hot weather.

IF YOU SEE AN ANIMAL IN DISTRESS CALL 911

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