

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Great Plains SPCA Offers Support During Extreme Heat

September 1st 2026

Merriam, K.S. — With the newest heat wave taking over the Kansas City region, Great Plains SPCA is urging citizens to take precautions and protect pets from extreme heat. High temperatures can quickly lead to heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and even death, especially for pets left outdoors without adequate shade or water.

“Pets rely on us to keep them cool, hydrated, and indoors during extreme weather,” said Tam Singer, CEO of Great Plains SPCA. “This includes weeks like this where we experience excessive heat.”

Great Plains SPCA’s Recommendations for Pet Owners During Extreme Heat:

- **Bring Pets Indoors** – Keep animals inside during the heat of the day. Ensure they have access to fans or air conditioning.
- **Never Leave Pets in a Parked Car** – Even with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a car can become deadly within minutes.
- **Limit Outdoor Activity** – Walk pets early in the morning or after sunset. Pavement can burn paw pads.
- **Provide Ample Fresh Water and Shade** – Ensure pets have continuous access to clean water and shaded areas if outside briefly.
- **Watch for Signs of Heatstroke** – Heavy panting, drooling, vomiting, lethargy, and collapse are signs of heat distress. Seek veterinary care immediately.

For pet owners with outdoor-only pets, Great Plains SPCA is providing free ***Bring Your Pet Inside Kits*** with essential supplies to assist pet owners in bringing their animals out of the extreme heat. These kits are only intended for outdoor pets, especially those who are regularly chained or tethered, and include items to support safe, indoor care.

If you see an animal in distress due to the heat, do not hesitate: contact your local animal control immediately.

To reserve a kit, email HERO@greatplainssPCA.org. Supplies are limited.

“Keeping pets safe is our number one priority,” Singer added. “Heat related complications for pets are preventable with simple precautions, and we are happy to support our community.”

For more information or to get involved, visit www.greatplainssPCA.org or email HERO@greatplainssPCA.org.

To learn more about available dogs, fostering opportunities, or ways to give, visit greatplainssPCA.org.

MEDIA CONTACT: Tam Singer, CEO, tsinger@greatplainssPCA.org

For more information, visit www.greatplainssPCA.org.

MEDIA CONTACT:, Hathaway Maranda, Vice President of Philanthropy and Engagement
913-808-3296, hmaranda@greatplainssPCA.org

About Great Plains SPCA

Great Plains SPCA (GP) is the highest rated animal shelter in the Kansas City area serving 500,000 residents and 7,000 community pets annually. GP works to save, protect and improve the lives of animals, while strengthening the relationship between pets and their human companions by providing humane sheltering, adoptions, community outreach and behavior training. GP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, please visit www.greatplainssPCA.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.