

Car danger:

Pet owners should not leave their animal in the car - even for a few minutes - when the hot weather arrives. The inside temperature of the car can quickly reach over 120 degrees. Pet owners are urged to refrain from leaving animals in the car, even with the windows cracked open.

It can lead to potentially fatal heat stroke. In addition, it is illegal in several states.

Heat stroke

Heat stroke is a common problem for pets in the warmer weather. Dogs with short noses or snouts, like the boxer, bulldogs, or pugs are more prone to heat stroke. This is also true for any obese pet, a pet with an extremely thick fur coat or any pet with respiratory or cardiac problems. Some of the signs of heat stroke in your pet are:

- Heavy panting and unable to calm down, even when lying down.
- Brick red gum color
- Fast pulse rate
- Unable to get up.

If you suspect your pet has heat stroke, take their temperature rectally. If the temperature is above 105 degrees, cool the animal down using cool (not cold) water. Stop cooling the animal when the temperature reaches 103 degrees. Bring your pet to the veterinarian as soon as possible as heat stroke can lead to severe organ dysfunction and damage.

Pools:

Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool—not all dogs are good swimmers. Introduce your pets to water gradually and make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats. Rinse your dog off after swimming to remove chlorine or salt from his fur, and clean ears. Dogs should avoid drinking pool water, (which contains chlorine and other chemicals) or open water sources (which can contain infectious diseases or parasites).

Grooming:

Feel free to trim longer hair on your dog, avoid shaving naturally long hair dogs, as long as there is no matting. The layers of dogs' coats protect them from overheating and sunburn. Brushing cats more often than usual can prevent problems caused by excessive heat. Any sunscreen or insect repellent product you use on your pets is labeled specifically for use on animals.

Walking/ asphalt:

When the temperature is very high, don't let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close to the ground, your pooch's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.