

# Keeping your dog cool this summer



During the hottest months of the year it is important that we don't forget about our furry friends, especially if they are outside pets. Our pets can also suffer from heat exhaustion, dehydration and heatstroke. If left untreated this can be very dangerous to your pet and can even result in death.

## 1. Water

It is important to make sure your pets always have access to cool clean water. Place water bowls in shady areas of the yard and if your pet is home alone it's a good idea to have more than one water bowl available during the day. Placing ice cubes or ice bricks in the water can also help to keep the water cool.

For dogs that love to swim and play in the water, Clam pools are great to have as their very own swimming pool, they are cheap and easy to clean and your dog can swim whenever he or she feels like it! Using the hose to wet down outdoor pets can also help with keeping them cool.

## 2. Escaping the heat

Ensure your pet has access to shady cool areas in the yard at all times; This can vary from a shady bush to lie under, the back verandah or inside With the air conditioning on.



## 3. Ice blocks for dogs

You can make your own ice blocks for your pets! These are a great cheap and easy way to encourage your pet to drink more water and help stay cool, they are also excellent for pets who get bored easily! All you need is a container (ice cream containers work great for dogs and Margarine containers are great for smaller dogs), water and your pet's favorite treats. Simply add the water and treats to the container and freeze overnight!

Be creative, you can also use chicken necks, Frankfurts cut into pieces, liver treats, you can even add a small amount of beef/chicken stock for flavor!

You can also give your dog ice cube treats!

Caution: Always remove any uneaten food as once the ice has melted any meat will go off in the heat.



## 4. Exercise

Do not exercise your pet during the day; this includes walking and playing in the yard. Early mornings and late in the afternoon when the sun is going down are the best times to exercise with your pet. Also be aware that when walking your pets on the road or footpath that the hot concrete can burn the pads of their feet so it's best to wait until it cools down.

## 5. Traveling with pets

When traveling with your pets always make sure you take water and a bowl for them to drink from. It's also now illegal to leave your pet in the car unattended. Pets will overheat very quickly in a car and it can result in death within a short period of time. And remember to always travel with your windows down to allow plenty of fresh air!

## 6. Grooming

Clipping and grooming your pets in the hotter months can help to keep them cool. Having shorter hair however can expose them to the risk of sunburn so pets should be watched closely with short hair, especially white coated animals.

If you suspect your pet may be suffering from heat exhaustion please contact us as soon as possible.

**Irrawang Veterinary Hospital**

Ph: 4987 1898

3/17 Port Stephens Street, Raymond Terrace  
2324



**Thornton Veterinary Clinic**

Ph: 4966 1133

3/ 30 Railway Avenue, Thornton 2322