

HOT WEATHER HAZARDS



When the temperatures rise, pets need special care to stay safe, cool, healthy and hydrated. Whether your pet spends lots of time outdoors or goes out for a few quick walks, understand potential hazards and keep the following basic tips in mind:



HOT SURFACES

Asphalt and pavement can get hot enough to burn your pet's skin and paws.

TIPS: Keep your pet off of hot surfaces. If a surface is too hot for you to stand on; it's too hot for your pet.



BOATS & WATER

Not all pets are good swimmers. Beaches, pools and boats are used in warm to hot weather.

TIPS: When on/near water, keep your pet in a pet-specific flotation device. At the beach, pool or in a boat, provide shade and fresh, clean drinking water.



SPRAYS & LOTIONS

Bug sprays and sun screens can be harmful and even poisonous to your pet.

TIPS: Use only products labeled specifically for use on pets. Keep your products out of reach.



CARS

Cars heat up quickly and pets can suffer from heatstroke or even death.

TIPS: Never leave your pet unattended in a car. Signs of heatstroke include excessive panting, drooling, mild weakness and elevated body temperature.



COOKOUTS

Fire, food alcohol can be dangerous to your pet. Hot dogs, bratwurst, etc., can cause an upset stomach, and even lead to pancreatitis. Alcohol is poisonous.

TIPS: Keep your pets away from grills, food, and alcoholic beverages.



DEHYDRATION

Pets can quickly become dehydrated, especially in warmer weather.

TIPS: Keep pets inside during the hottest parts of the day, and make sure they have plenty of fresh, clean water.



FIREWORKS

Loud noises can be terrifying to pets.

TIPS: Keep your pet inside and secure in a comfortable place, away from windows and doors during summer celebrations. Mask the sound with music or television.



GARDENS

Lily, azalea, oleander and many other plants are poisonous to pets. Herbicides and pesticides can be toxic.

TIPS: Don't let pets eat your plants. Keep pets off recently treated areas.



PARASITES

Fleas, ticks and mosquitoes carry disease that can be harmful or fatal to your pet.

TIPS: Work with your primary care veterinarian to develop a program to protect your pet.

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Pets can suffer from anxiety. They could also run away or get lost.

TIPS: keep your pet securely inside using a crate or specially-designed seatbelt harness. Be sure your pet is micro-chipped in case of getting lost or runs away.



Each summer, dozens of pets fall or jump from windows, balconies and decks. Injuries can be extensive and deadly.

TIPS: Keep pets safely secured with a leash held by a responsible adult when on balconies and decks.

HOW HOT IS TOO HOT?

°F				KEY	OTHER FACTORS
110°	5	5	5	5 Potentially life-threatening heat. Avoid prolonged outdoor activity.	+1 If obese
105°	5	5	5		
100°	5	5	5	4 Dangerous weather developing. Use caution.	+1 If brachycephalic breed
95°	5	5	5		
90°	5	5	5	3 Unsafe potential, depending on breed. Keep an eye on your pet outdoors.	+1 If less than 6 months old or elderly
85°	4	5	5		
80°	3	3	4	2 Risk is unlikely: Have fun outside, but be careful!	-1 If area is shaded from sun
75°	3	3	3		
70°	2	2	3	1 No evidence of risk: Have fun outside!	-1 If water is available
65°	1	1	2		
60°	1	1	1		

Source: Adapted from The Tufts Animal Care and Condition (TACC) scales.



WE WILL SEE ALL EMERGENCY CASES! Call us immediately **(312-421-2275)** so we can assist you. Should you need assistance after hours, please call a 24-hour clinic: **PREMIER VETERINARY GROUP OF CHICAGO (773-516-5800)** at 3927 W. Belmont Ave.