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SDHS Urges Pet Owners to Take Precaution During Excessive Heat Warning

Animals need a cool place to seek refuge and an increased supply of cold water.

SAN DIEGO — With temperatures soaring in San Diego County this weekend, San Diego Humane Society urges pet owners to take extra precaution. Here are some important safety tips to keep in mind when it is hot outside:

1. Always provide plenty of cool, clean water for your animal. When away from home, carry a thermos with fresh water.
2. Leave your pets at home as much as possible. While you may think that they will be lonely, they will be much more comfortable in your cool home than riding in a hot car.
3. If you must take your pet along for the ride, don't leave your pet alone in a parked vehicle. Even with the windows open, a parked car can quickly become a furnace. If the temperature outside is 80 degrees, the temperature inside your car can quickly climb to 120 degrees.
4. In extremely hot weather, don't leave your dog standing on the street, and keep walks to a minimum. Your canine companion is much closer to the hot asphalt and his body can heat up quickly. His paws can also burn on hot asphalt or concrete. If you're going to be on hot pavement, consider bringing along a towel or blanket for your dog to rest on, giving his pads a break from the sweltering heat of the pavement. Be sure to allow for plenty of breaks and find shady spots to cool off.
5. Don't force your animal to exercise in hot, humid weather. Exercise your pet in the cool of the early morning or evening. Never run your dog next to a bike during the heat. In addition to the hot air, the hot pavement increases the risk for heat stroke.
6. Dogs can get sunburned too — don't forget to protect hairless and light-coated dogs with sunscreen.
7. Always provide plenty of shade for an animal staying outside the house. Bring your pet inside during the heat of the day and let them rest in a cool part of your house. If you take your dog to the beach or park, make sure you can provide a shaded spot for resting.
8. A clean coat can help to prevent summer skin problems, so keep your pet well groomed.
9. Take your companion animal to the veterinarian for a summer checkup. Have the doctor recommend a safe, effective flea and tick control program.
10. Be alert for the signs of heat stress: heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid pulse, unsteadiness, a staggering gait, vomiting, or a deep red tongue. If you believe your pet is suffering from heat exhaustion, contact your veterinarian right away — it could save your pet's life.



DON'T LEAVE YOUR PET IN A PARKED CAR.

OUTSIDE	VEHICLE TEMPERATURE INSIDE	
	10 mins.	30 mins.
70°F	89°F	104°F
75°F	94°F	109°F
80°F	99°F	114°F
85°F	104°F	119°F
90°F	109°F	124°F
95°F	114°F	129°F

Even on a mild day, the temperature in your car can quickly rise to **100+ degrees!**



Important heat-safety graphics can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3INGfec>

Suggested Tweet: There is an [#excessiveheatwarning](https://twitter.com/hashtag/excessiveheatwarning) in effect for San Diego County through Monday 8 p.m. [@sdhumane](https://twitter.com/sdhumane) urges pet owners to take extra precaution to keep their pets safe. Keep pets indoors, supply cool water and NEVER leave your pet in a parked car. More tips: <http://sdhumane.org/staycool>.

About San Diego Humane Society

San Diego Humane Society's scope of social responsibility goes beyond adopting animals. We offer programs that strengthen the human-animal bond, prevent cruelty and neglect, provide medical care, educate the community and serve as a safety net for all pet families. Serving San Diego County since 1880, San Diego Humane Society has campuses in Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego. For more information, please visit sdhumane.org.