

# Pawsitive Press

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Summertime Blues 1
- Summertime Cont'd/Tips 2
- Keep Pets safe in the Heat 3
- Coupons 4

**Related Webpages:**



[Free Emergency Pet Alert Sticker](#)

[How a Pets Microchip Works](#)

[ASPCA Disaster Preparedness APP](#)

## Summertime Blues

Christen Woodley, D.V.M.

Summer is here, and with all the fun in the sun also comes certain increased risks for your family pet. If the heat and weather are not safe for us, they are also harmful to our pets. One of the biggest concerns in Florida in the summer heat is hyperthermia, otherwise known as heat stroke. This is preventable! And though it is treatable if caught early, it can be fatal!! Another lurking danger is hurricanes. If you have to evacuate, the ideal situation is to take your pet with you. However, most emergency shelters do not allow pets so you should plan ahead of time for how best to handle your travels. Also be sure to check with emergency management officials to see if exceptions are made for service pets.

A pet's normal body temperature is between 99 and 102.5 degrees. Anytime the body temperature reaches 105 the body is at a much higher risk for damage. Symptoms of body temperatures this high can begin as panting, vomiting, diarrhea, and weakness. This can progress to the extremes of organ failure, coagulopathy (bleeding problems), seizures, coma, and even death. Overheating can occur if your pet is exercised in hot/humid weather, if they are left outside without adequate



access to shade and or water. Remember! Dogs should never be left in the car! This can happen to any pet, but brachycephalic dog breeds such as Boston terriers, pugs, bulldogs, Lhasa Apso, and Pekingese are at an increased risk.

Taking steps to cool your pet as you transfer them to your veterinarian can be life-saving. Bring your pet into a cool area and place a fan on them. You can wet their coat and paws with cool water. You DO NOT want to use ice water or ice. Believe it or not this can cause more harm than good! Take them to your veterinarian as soon as possible to get a more thorough evaluation.

As if the heat and humidity aren't enough to deal with, there is always the risk of a hurricane that may warrant an evacuation. You should work on having an evacuation plan ahead of time just in case. A good place to start is to research pet friendly hotels that will be on your evacuation route. Make sure to ask if they have any breed or weight/size restrictions, and if so if these are waived during an evacuation. Have a carrier in an easily accessible

location so you don't have to locate it or rearrange things to get to it in an emergency. Label it beforehand, ideally with something waterproof, and place all important documents in a waterproof container or bag. Take additional leashes and collars and have them ready for taking your pet in and out of the carrier. Try to do that in a safe, secure environment, especially when dealing with cats. If you will be traveling far with your cat, the goal is to have a carrier big enough to fit a small litterbox, bowls, and room to lie down. I advise packing portable food and water bowls with enough food to last a week. Dry food is preferred to avoid the concern of keeping food cool, tightly sealed, having a can opener, etc. If you have room for bottled water, I would pack it in case you are in your car for a while before reaching a hotel. Pack an up to date vaccination record with you and any additional info like rabies certificates, microchip numbers, recent photo, medication instructions, etc. If your pet is on medication that requires refrigeration, such as insulin, pack a cooler and contact local emergency organizations such as the Red Cross for ice.

I strongly advise having your pet microchipped regardless of if you are in an evacuation zone. This way, in case the pet accidentally escapes and loses their collar, or if you are forced to leave there is some form of id to aid

**Summertime Cont'd**

in locating you. The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and goes underneath the skin between the shoulder blades. Most all veterinary clinics and shelters have scanners to read the number.

Everyone be safe out there and have an enjoyable summer! Always think about what is in your best health interest and consider that for your pet also. If you have any questions on their safety please don't hesitate to contact us.



For information about Pet Friendly Hotels and Shelters during the hurricane season check out the following website:

<http://www.floridapetfriendly.com/pet-friendly-hurricane-shelters.htm>

This website lists pet friendly hotels and shelters by the county. Luckily there are quite a few in Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties!

*July 4th*  
**PET SAFETY TIPS**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY  **DVMmultimedia™**  
DYNAMIC VETERINARY MARKETING [www.DVMMultimedia.com](http://www.DVMMultimedia.com)

**DON'T FREAK OUT**  
Fireworks explosions are loud and frightening to pets. Keep them secured in a quiet room during the displays.

**TAKE A CHILL PILL**  
Some pets need help to ease the stress of fireworks. Talk to your vet about products and medications that can help.

**PARTY ANIMAL**  
BBQs and gatherings are fun for us, but pose problems for pets. Keep alcohol and foods out of paw's reach.

**STAY COOL**  
It can get hot outside and the festivities can be distracting. Make sure your pet has plenty of water and shade.

**MICROCHIP**  
More pets get lost on 7/4 than any other day of the year. Microchip your pet and avoid the stress of a lost pet.



# Keep Pets Safe in the Heat

## How, where to cool animals down when temps soar



The summer months can be uncomfortable—even dangerous—for pets and people. It's difficult enough simply to cope with rising temperatures, let alone thick humidity, but things really get tough in areas that are hit with the double blow of intense heat and [storm-caused power outages](#), sometimes with tragic results.

We can help you keep your pets safe and cool this summer. Follow our tips for helping everyone in your family stay healthy and comfortable when the heat is on (and even if the power isn't).

### Practice basic summer safety

#### Never leave your pets in a parked car

**Not even for a minute.** Not even with the car running and air conditioner on. On a warm day, temperatures inside a vehicle can rise rapidly to dangerous levels. On an 85-degree day, for example, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature will reach 120 degrees. Your pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die. [Learn how to help a pet left inside a hot car»](#)

#### Watch the humidity

"It's important to remember that it's not just the ambient temperature but also the humidity that can affect your pet," says Dr. Barry Kellogg, VMD, of the [Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association](#). "Animals pant to evaporate moisture from their lungs, which takes heat away from their body. If the humidity is too high, they are unable to cool themselves, and their temperature will skyrocket to dangerous levels—very quickly."

Taking a dog's temperature will quickly tell you if there is a serious problem. Dogs' temperatures should not be allowed to get over 104 degrees. If your dog's temperature does, follow the instructions for treating heat stroke below.

#### Limit exercise on hot days

Take care when exercising your pet. Adjust intensity and duration of exercise in accordance with the temperature. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours, and be especially careful with pets with white-colored ears, who are more susceptible to skin cancer, and short-nosed pets, who typically have difficulty breathing. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog from dehydrating.

#### Don't rely on a fan

Pets respond differently to heat than humans do. (Dogs, for instance, sweat primarily through their feet.) And fans don't cool off pets as effectively as they do people.

#### Provide ample shade and water

Any time your pet is outside, make sure he or she has protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible. Tree shade and tarps are ideal because they don't obstruct air flow. A doghouse does not provide relief from heat—in fact, it makes it worse.

#### Cool your pet inside and out

Whip up a batch of quick and easy [DIY peanut butter popsicles for dogs](#). (You can use peanut butter or another favorite food.) And always provide water, whether your pets are inside or out with you.

Keep your pet from overheating indoors or out with a cooling body wrap, vest, or mat (such as the Keep Cool Mat). Soak these products in cool water, and they'll stay cool (but usually dry) for up to three days. If your dog doesn't find baths stressful, see if she enjoys a cooling soak.

### Watch for signs of heatstroke

Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, and unconsciousness.

Animals are at particular risk for heat stroke if they are very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or have heart or respiratory disease. Some breeds of dogs—like boxers, pugs, shih tzus, and other dogs and cats with short muzzles—will have a much harder time breathing in extreme heat.

#### How to treat a pet suffering from heatstroke

Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply cold towels to the head, neck, and chest or run cool (not cold) water over her. Let her drink small amounts of cool water. **Take her directly to a veterinarian.**

### Prepare for power outages

Before a summer storm takes out the power in your home, [create a disaster plan to keep your pets safe](#) from heat stroke and other temperature-related trouble.



**Animal Hospital of Dunedin**  
1355 Pinehurst Rd  
Dunedin, FL 34698

**Phone:** 727-733-9351  
**Fax:** 727-733-8165  
**E-mail:**  
[practicemanager@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:practicemanager@tampabay.rr.com)



“Caring for pets with love and kindness”



**We're on the Web!**  
[www.ahofd.com](http://www.ahofd.com)



**Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN**  
*Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness*

**\$1**

## First Exam - New Patient

(\$49-\$80 Savings)

Includes comprehensive physical exam and one vaccine. Does not include 3yr Rabies vaccine. Must be presented at the time of purchase. Coupon may not be combined with any other offer.

NL



**Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN**  
*Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness*

**\$25**

## Home Again Microchip

(\$30.40 Savings)

Present this coupon to receive a Home Again microchip implantation, lifetime registration and one year of advanced benefits from Home Again. Call the office today to schedule your cat or dog. 727-733-9351 May not be combined with any other special offers or coupons. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase.

Expires 7/31/15 NL



**Animal Hospital OF DUNEDIN**  
*Caring for Pets with Love and Kindness*

**\$10 Off**

## \$200 Retail Mix and Match

- \*Shampoo
- \*Food
- \*Heartworm Prevention
- \*Dietary Supplements
- \*Flea and Tick Control

Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. May not be combined with any other offer.

\*\*This coupon can not be applied to prescription medications other than heartworm/flea control\*\*

Expires 7/31/15 NL