

# Have FUN & Stay COOL!



## Follow These Tips to Help Protect Your Pets From the Summer Heat!

### #1: NEVER Leave Pets Alone in a Parked Car

Even with windows cracked, temperatures inside cars can rapidly exceed 120° F, which creates a death trap for animals trapped inside. Garages are another place animals need to be kept out of. Not only do temperatures become sweltering, but items commonly stored in garages, such as lawn chemicals, antifreeze and insecticides, present a constant threat to animals.

### #2: Limit Outdoor Activity During the Heat of the Day

Most dogs know when they're becoming overheated and will slow down, hydrate and seek the shade. Some high-energy breeds require their humans to step in and impose "rest breaks". If you notice your dog slowing down on a hot day, allow him ample time to hydrate, cool down and rest.

### #3: Protect Those Paws

It is relatively easy for an animal's paws to burn on hot pavement, especially mid-day. If possible, plan walks in early morning or early evening, to avoid the most intense heat, and try to walk Rover on grass as much as possible.

Dogs are NEVER safe riding in the bed of a truck, and the practice is illegal in many DFW-area cities. In the Texas heat, truck beds are even more dangerous, where a dog's paws can easily burn on the hot surfaces.



### #4: Protect the Skin & Coat

Animals with thin coats, white fur on the nose and ears, and hairless breeds are especially sun-sensitive. Protect against sunburn with spray-on sunblock.

Mats in a dog's coat retain heat, so it is important to keep the coat brushed out and well-maintained.

Flies are prevalent in hot weather, and skin abrasions can become a perfect place for flies to lay eggs. Keep your pet clean and promptly clean and treat any skin abrasions, to void maggot infestations.

### #5: Bring Pets Indoors

When animals are outdoors, they must have constant access to shade and plenty of water (kept out of the sun). Even in the shade, the Texas summer heat can reach the upper 90's. Bring your pets safely indoors when the heat is intense.

### #6: Know the Signs of Heatstroke

Respond quickly to the warning signs of life-threatening heatstroke: extreme panting, staring, anxious expressions, lethargy or refusal to obey commands, warm/dry skin, high fever, rapid heartbeat, vomiting or collapsing. Place the animal in cool area. Wet him down gently with cool water, using a hose, sponge, kiddie pool or washcloth. NEVER use ice. Call your veterinarian immediately.

## Have Fun With Your Pets & Stay Safe This Summer!