

Summer Considerations

Summer is the perfect time for excitement and recreation, but people often neglect to pay attention to what the higher temperatures and summer dangers can do to their furry family members.

- Visit your veterinarian for a health check-up
- Provide plenty of water and a place to cool down
- Avoid over exercising animals in the heat
- Know the symptoms of overheating
- Do not leave animals in a hot car or anywhere unsupervised
- Five second rule: Hold your hand on gravel, asphalt, or concrete and count to five seconds. If you can't hold it down, it is too hot for your dog. You can buy booties for dog paws if you are hiking or walking during the summer
- While your animal is outside you must ensure that proper housing is present and accessible for them. The shelter must be suitable for:
 - the species, age, condition, size, and type of animal
 - protects the animal from rain, sleet, snow, hail, wind and direct sunlight
 - does not accumulate excrement, wasted food, or other debris
 - provides a solid surface, resting platform, pad, floor mat, or similar device that is large enough for the Animal or Animals intended to occupy to be able to lie upon in a normal manner and can be maintained in a sanitary manner.

Below are some helpful articles to help address hazards the weather present to your animals during the warmer months.

- PetFinder: [Preventing Heatstrokes in Cats](#)
- PetFinder: [Catsicles: Homemade Cat Treats for Summer](#)
- PetFinder: [6 Must-Know Too-Common Summer Dangers for Dogs](#)
- ASPCA: [Hot Weather Safety Tips](#)
- ASPCA: [Springtime Safety Tips](#)
- ASPCA: [Overheating Kills](#)
- Pets: WEBMD: [Car Travel with Pets: 10 Tips](#)
- PetFinder: [7 Reasons to Never Leave Your Dog in a Car](#)