
Help for pets when they need it

When the Medical Officer of Health issues a **Heat Alert** or an **Extreme Heat Alert** it's a signal for you to protect yourself and your pet from the effects of extreme hot weather. Toronto Animal Services provides information on taking care of your pet during hot weather.

During the summer, pay close attention to your pet's health. Arrange for cooling activities to bring its core body temperature down. This could save their lives.

Remember - the inside of a car is
Dangerous **AT ALL TIMES!**

Even on mild days during the summer temperatures rise to dangerous levels in minutes. A few minutes can lead to tragedy.

Carry a spare key with you to avoid locking your pet accidentally in your car.

If your pet is accidentally locked in your car, **call 911** or your local emergency number immediately.

For more information or if you see a pet in distress because of heat-related causes call:

Toronto Animal Services
416-338-PAWS (7297)
or visit our Web site
www.toronto.ca/health
– click on Animal Services.

For information on how extreme heat affects people call:

Canadian Red Cross Heat Info Hotline
416-480-2615

Summer Safety Tips to Beat the Heat

**Help Pets
Beat the Heat**

Enjoy a safe summer



Toronto
Public Health



Toronto
Public Health

You may want sun and surf in the summer but your pets want shade and water.

Without shade and water, dogs, cats and other pets can overheat, become ill and die within a short time. Summer is when pets have the greatest risk of injury and heat-related health problems. Here are some tips to keep them cool.

Watch for signs of heat stroke

Signs include rapid panting, lots of drooling, hot skin, twitching muscles, vomiting and a dazed look. Act quickly to cool down your pet – wrap it in a towel soaked with cool (not cold) water, or place it in a bathtub with cool water, or pour cool water over the pet. You can also put ice packs on the animal's head. Consult your veterinarian if your pet has heat stroke.

Provide plenty of fresh water

Dogs can only sweat by panting or through the pads of their feet. Water loss from the wet surfaces of their mouth and nose helps lower their body temperature. Pets need fresh water at home and outdoors, so take water with you for your pet.

Watch out for sunburn! Watch out for hot pavement and beaches

Sensitive paws burn easily. Water, sand and rock, at the beach reflect sunlight – your pet could get sunburn. Short hair pets and those with pink skin or white hair are most likely to burn. Control your pet's exposure to the sun – limit the time and provide shade.

Find a cool spot

Keep air circulating indoors for pets – use a fan or air-conditioning. Provide shade outdoors for pets. A gentle sprinkle from a garden hose is also helpful to keep them cool.

Watch how much pets eat and exercise

Overeating during hot weather can lead to overheating, so let your pets eat less. Also avoid exercise or vigorous activity during the hottest part of the day.

NEVER leave your pet in a parked car!

Even with the window open slightly or parked in the shade, when the temperature outside reaches 30°C the temperature inside a car can reach 50°C in minutes. This is extremely dangerous to your pet. Although your pet may want to come with you, it is much kinder to leave it at home with plenty of fresh cool water and shade.

Hot Weather Warnings for Toronto

Toronto's Hot Weather Response Plan coordinates the efforts of City and community agencies, including Toronto Animal Services, to prevent adverse health effects from hot weather in people and pets.

When hot weather becomes oppressive due to high temperatures and other factors, the Medical Officer of Health issues a **heat alert**. It may be upgraded to an **extreme heat alert**.

A **Heat Alert** means that the conditions brought on by a hot air mass are such that the likelihood of additional deaths, above those that are typical for the same time of year, is more than 65 percent.

An **Extreme Heat Alert** means that the conditions brought on by a hot air mass are such that the likelihood of additional deaths, above those that are typical for the same time of year, is more than 90 percent.
