

PETS IN SUMMER SERIES

HEATSTROKE IN FAMILY PETS

What to do if you suspect heatstroke

01 Hose down your pet thoroughly so that their panting slows down and to prevent their body temperature from rising further.

02 Ring your vet to tell them you are on your way – immediate veterinary attention is recommended, don't take a 'wait and see' approach.

03 In the car, keep your air conditioning on or your windows down to keep your pet cool.

04 At the vet, treatment for heatstroke may include intravenous fluids, oxygen or a blood test to determine if organ damage has occurred.

05 Severe cases can have a significant risk of death and may require hospitalisation for 1-10 days.

What not to do on a hot day with your pets

Don't leave your pet in your vehicle, even if it's in the shade.

Don't travel with your pet in a poorly ventilated vehicle.

Don't take your dog for a run in the middle of the day.

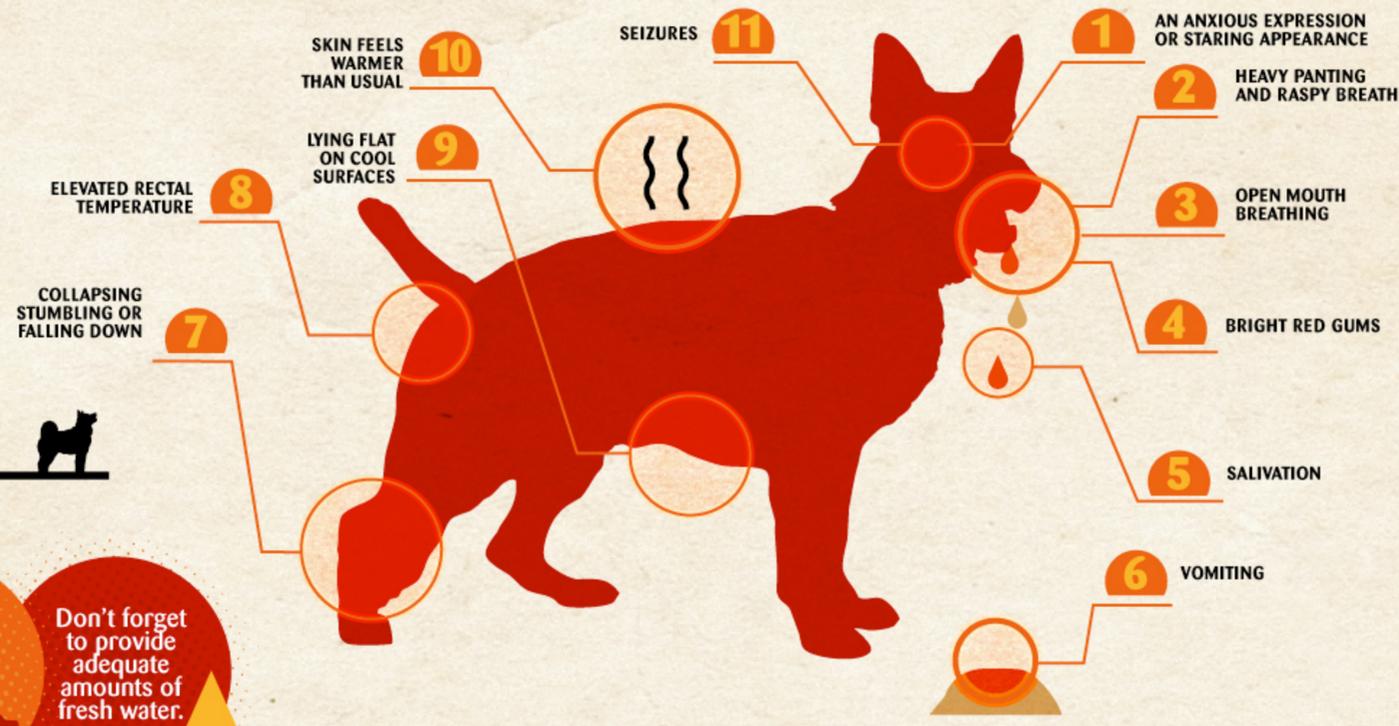
Don't allow your pet to exercise excessively.

Don't forget to provide adequate amounts of fresh water.

Types of pets most susceptible to heatstroke

- Short snout breeds - Pugs, Pekingese and Bulldogs.
- Elderly or ill pets.
- Cats with shortened faces like the Persian.
- Dogs that snore or have airway problems.
- Pets which are caged or unable to seek cooler environments.
- Pets which are overweight.
- A pet that has had heatstroke before could be at a higher risk of getting it again.
- Pets with heart conditions.
- Dogs which exercise excessively in hot weather.
- Pets which have recently been relocated to hotter climates.

What symptoms to look for



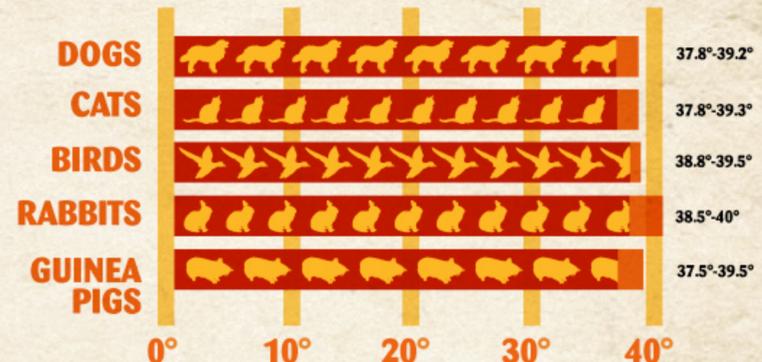
Why your dog may be more likely to get heatstroke than you

- DOGS CAN'T SWEAT, THEIR ONLY EFFECTIVE METHOD OF COOLING IS PANTING.
- YOUR DOG CAN'T ASK FOR A DRINK OR TELL YOU IF THEY ARE TOO HOT.
- DOGS ARE SO EAGER TO PLEASE THEIR OWNERS THEY OFTEN WON'T STOP PLAYING UNTIL THEIR BODIES CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE.

What to do on a hot day with your pets

- Ask your neighbour to check on your pet if it is kept outside.
- Keep your pet inside.
- Make sure your pet has a shady area to escape to.
- If you don't have air conditioning, use fans to increase air circulation.
- Spray small animals with a spray bottle of water set at a fine mist.
- Make sure your pet has two bowls of water in case one gets knocked over.
- For guinea pigs and rabbits, put their cage under shade cloth to drop the temp while still allowing cool air to circulate.
- Provide your dog with a paddling pool to cool off.
- Exercise early morning or evening - when the temps are cooler.
- Repeatedly wet your dog with a hose if they are panting heavily.
- Add ice cubes to water bowl to make it extra cool.

Average body temperature of household pets



The closer the temp of the day is to your pets body temperature, the harder it is for them to keep themselves cool.

What heatstroke can do to your pet

- Brain damage - in severe cases may be permanent.
- Muscle damage can be severe if heat stroke is associated with exercise or seizures.
- Organ failure if the body temp reaches 43 degrees.
- Swelling of the upper airways.
- Death
- Liver damage and liver failure.
- Bleeding disorders.
- Lung damage.
- Kidney damage or failure.
- Ulceration of the stomach and intestines.