

*Please follow these guidelines to protect your companion animal when the temperature rises or drops*

## HOT WEATHER TIPS

- Overheating (heat prostration) can kill an animal. Never leave an animal alone in a vehicle—even with the windows open, a parked car, truck or van can quickly become a furnace. Parking in the shade offers little protection, as the sun shifts during the day. When traveling, carry a gallon thermos filled with cold water.
- Don't force your animal to exercise after a meal in hot weather. Always exercise him in the early morning or in the evening.
- In extremely hot weather, don't leave your dog standing on the street, and keep walks to a minimum. He is much closer than you are to the hot asphalt—his body can heat up quickly and his paws can burn.
- Never take an animal to the beach unless you can provide a shaded spot and plenty of fresh water for him to drink. Rinse him off after he has been in salt water.
- Provide plenty of shade for an animal staying outside, preferably by using a properly constructed dog house. Bring your dog inside during the hot time of the day, and provide plenty of cool water. Keep cats indoors.
- Be sensitive to old and overweight animals in hot weather. Brachycephalic (snub-nosed) dogs (especially bulldogs, Pekingese, Boston terriers, Lhasa apsos and shih tzus) and those with heart or lung diseases should be kept in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.
- Avoid walking your dog in areas that you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals. Call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (contact information below) if you suspect that your animal has been poisoned.
- Be alert for coolant leaking from your vehicle. Animals are attracted to the sweet taste, and ingesting just a small amount can be fatal. Try animal-friendly products that use propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol. Call your veterinarian or the

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center if you suspect that your companion animal has been poisoned.

- A clean coat can help prevent summer skin problems; keep your animal well-groomed. Shaving heavy-coated dog hair to a one-inch length helps prevent overheating. Don't shave the hair down to the skin; this robs the dog of protection from the sun. Cats should be brushed often.
- Take your companion animal to the veterinarian for a spring or early summer check-up, including a test for heartworm if your dog isn't on year-round preventative medication. Have the doctor recommend a safe flea-and-tick-control program.
- Never let your animal loose outside—he can contract a fatal disease or be injured, killed or stolen. Make sure to keep windows and doors closed or screened.

## COLD WEATHER TIPS

- Keep your cat inside. Outdoors, cats can freeze, become lost or be stolen, injured or killed. Cats who are allowed to stray are exposed to fatal infectious diseases, including rabies. Cats also prey on wildlife.
- During the winter, outdoor cats sometimes sleep under the hoods of cars. When the motor is started, the cat can be injured or killed by the fan belt. Before starting the engine, bang loudly on the car hood to give the cat a chance to escape.
- Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm—dogs can lose their scent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure they always wear I.D. tags.
- Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other chemicals while licking his paws, and his paw pads may also bleed from snow or encrusted ice.

- Own a short-haired breed? Consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck that covers the dog from the base of the tail on top to the belly underneath. While this may seem like a luxury, it is a necessity for many dogs.
- Never leave your dog or cat alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold. The animal can freeze to death.
- If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, take him outdoors only to relieve himself.
- Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs and may be difficult to house-break during the winter. If necessary, paper-train your puppy inside if he appears to be sensitive to the weather.
- If your dog spends a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities, increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep his fur thick and healthy.
- Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
- Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter. Leave the coat longer for more warmth. When you bathe your dog, completely dry him before taking him out for a walk.
- Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep away from all drafts and off the floor, such as in a dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow in it.



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