

UNDERSTANDING HEAT-RELATED RISKS FOR PETS

WHILE MANY PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF HEAT FOR HUMANS, PET SAFETY IN HOT WEATHER OFTEN DOESN'T GET AS MUCH ATTENTION. HERE ARE SOME KEY POINTS TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH:



- **RECOGNIZING HEAT STROKE IN PETS:**

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE EXCESSIVE PANTING, DROOLING, RED OR PURPLE GUMS, VOMITING, DIARRHEA, AND UNCOORDINATED MOVEMENTS.

IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NEEDED IF A PET SHOWS SIGNS OF HEAT STROKE, INCLUDING MOVING THEM TO A COOLER ENVIRONMENT AND OFFERING WATER.

- **SAFE EXERCISE PRACTICES:**

WALK PETS DURING COOLER PARTS OF THE DAY, SUCH AS EARLY MORNING OR LATE EVENING. AVOID HOT PAVEMENTS, AS THEY CAN BURN PETS' PAWS. TEST THE PAVEMENT WITH YOUR HAND; IF IT'S TOO HOT FOR YOUR HAND, IT'S TOO HOT FOR THEIR PAWS.

- **HYDRATION IS KEY:**

ENSURE PETS HAVE ACCESS TO FRESH, COOL WATER AT ALL TIMES. CONSIDER PORTABLE WATER BOWLS FOR OUTINGS AND TRAVEL. PROVIDING SHADE AND VENTILATION:



ENSURE PETS HAVE ACCESS TO SHADED AREAS IF THEY ARE OUTSIDE. NEVER LEAVE PETS IN PARKED CARS, AS TEMPERATURES CAN RISE RAPIDLY, LEADING TO FATAL HEATSTROKE.

- **GROOMING CONSIDERATIONS:**

REGULAR GROOMING CAN HELP PREVENT OVERHEATING, BUT AVOID SHAVING COATS TOO SHORT AS FUR PROVIDES SUNBURN PROTECTION.

BRUSHING PETS HELPS REMOVE EXCESS FUR AND PROMOTES BETTER AIR CIRCULATION.

- **SPECIAL CARE FOR HIGH-RISK PETS:**

BRACHYCEPHALIC BREEDS (E.G., BULLDOGS, PUGS) ARE MORE PRONE TO HEATSTROKE DUE TO THEIR SHORT NOSES.

OLDER PETS, OVERWEIGHT PETS, AND THOSE WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS NEED EXTRA ATTENTION AND CARE IN HOT WEATHER.

- **INDOOR ACTIVITIES:**

ON EXTREMELY HOT DAYS, ENGAGE PETS WITH INDOOR GAMES AND ACTIVITIES TO KEEP THEM SAFE AND STIMULATED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UNDERSTANDING HEAT-RELATED RISKS FOR PETS, VISIT:

WWW.ASPCA.ORG/PET-CARE/GENERAL-PET-CARE/HOT-WEATHER-SAFETY-TIPS



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