

# HOT WEATHER AND PETS



Like people, animals can be affected by hot weather and suffer heat-related illnesses. Follow these tips to keep your pet cool when the weather is hot:



If possible, bring pets inside when the weather is hot. If they cannot be indoors, make sure they have plenty of shelter and shade. Pets in cages, like birds, rabbits and guinea pigs, need to be kept indoors or in shade at all times of the day on extremely hot days.



Never walk your dog on hot pavements, roads or sand – paws are sensitive and burn easily. If you can't stand the heat with the back of your hand then it is too hot for your pets to walk on.



Walk your dog early in the morning or evening when it's cooler.



Do not leave your pet's food outside in the heat – if they do not eat it straight away, cover it and put it in the fridge for later.



Make sure pets have two large bowls of clean, fresh water to drink (in case one runs out or is knocked over), and put both in the shade. Ice blocks help keep their water cool for longer.



Never leave pets in a closed shed, garage or car (including with the windows down) – the temperature inside will get very hot very quickly.



Fill a small paddling pool with some water and place in a shady spot so your pet can cool down.

If your pet is showing signs of heat stress, like panting, sweating or drooling:

- > move them to a cool place
- > seek urgent medical attention for your pet from a vet
- > apply or spray cool water onto your pets fur/skin, followed by fanning and also wet the ground around them.

For more information

[sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthyintheheat](http://sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthyintheheat)

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