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.

- 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 – the temperature inside will get very hot very quickly.

- Walk your dog early in the morning or later in the day when it’s cooler.

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

- move them to a cool place
- try to get them to drink water – you may have to pour some into their mouth
- if your dog is overheated, stand it in water up to its belly
- seek urgent medical attention for your pet from a vet.