

Cold / Hot Weather Care

Hot Weather Care

How long will you be gone?

Even ten minutes could be too long for a pet left in the car on a hot day. By then, the temperature inside the car could reach 160°. That's hot enough to cause a dog to suffer heat stroke. Within moments, it could sustain permanent brain damage. If emergency care is not given, ***your pet could die***.

The short stop you plan to make at the store could stretch to 15 minutes or more before you know it. Your mistake could cost your dog its life. Leaving the windows cracked won't cool the car enough to protect your pet. Of course your dog would like to go with you everywhere, but when the weather turns warm, better park your pet at home.

Other Hot Weather Care tips to be aware of:

- ★ Animals need access to water at all times
- ★ Make sure your outside pets have adequate shelter from the sun and inclement weather.
- ★ When walking dogs, make sure they are not walked on hot surfaces for long periods of time, i.e. asphalt, concrete, etc.
- ★ When exercising dogs, make sure you stop periodically so that the dog can re-hydrate himself or herself.

If you have any concerns about your pet's well-being and health during the hot summer months, consult your veterinarian.

Cold Weather Care

Proper nourishment is important. Well-nourished pets, particularly those housed outdoors are better prepared to handle the winter months. In addition, outdoor pets need plenty of fresh water. Offer your pet fresh water several times a day.

Outdoor pets need shelter to hide from the rain and cold. Your pet's shelter should be insulated, elevated, protected from prevailing winds and watertight. Because they use their own body to keep warm, the shelter should be small enough to preserve the pet's body heat. Putting straw in the shelter will help keep your pet insulated and warm. Additionally, bedding should be kept clean and dry.

Dampness is a winter danger. Dry your pet if it gets wet and do all you can to keep it dry!

Another danger pets face in the winter is antifreeze. They are attracted to it because of its sweet taste and will drink it when it is not properly disposed of. Antifreeze is highly toxic to pets! Keep antifreeze stored where pets can't reach it. Antifreeze poisoning requires immediate veterinary treatment.

Cats and kittens will climb up under your vehicle's hood to find warmth from the motor. Make sure to blow the horn and check under the hood before starting your engine if you have felines around. Also check the wheel wells they like to climb tires and lay on top of the tire.

Finally, puppies, kittens and geriatric pets need special attention during the cold and wet weather. If you have any questions about your pet's well-being and health during the winter months, consult your veterinarian.