

Guide Dogs.

Warm Weather Policy

Australian summers can be scorching hot with temperatures often reaching over 40 degrees. Like humans, dogs (especially our very young pups) are susceptible to heat stroke. Precautions must be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of our pups, not only in these weather extremes, but also when temperatures are warm.

Please take note of and share these precautions with family and friends as needed:

Warm Weather Precautions

- If it is hot for you, it is hot for the pup.
- Do not walk pups in the middle of the day when temperatures are extreme.
- Early morning and late evening walks are best in hot weather. The cooler the air and surfaces, the safer it will be for your pup. Please be mindful, as your pup is closer to the ground, the hot air rising will be hotter for them to breathe in making it more difficult for them to regulate their temperature through panting.
- Where appropriate, consider walking in alternative locations such as air-conditioned shops or malls, ensuring that the ground to the entrance is not hot.
- Ensure that under footings are a suitable temperature for the pup to stand or walk on, even at night. Asphalt and metal surfaces can retain their heat for a long period after the heat source has ceased.
- Use the 5 second rule. If you cannot comfortably place the back of your hand on the ground for at least 5 seconds, then it is not suitable for your pup to be on.
- If you observe your dog shifting weight from side to side, it may indicate that the ground is too hot for them.
- Be mindful of different under footings along your walking route.
- Provide access to cool clean water throughout the day to avoid dehydration.
- Never leave your pup outside in hot weather. During extreme weather conditions, pups should remain indoors in a cool, well-ventilated area.

- If leaving your pup outdoors in warm weather provide more than one water source in case one is tipped over.
- If leaving your pup outdoors in warm weather, ensure that ample shade and shelter is always available.
- Under no circumstances should a pup ever be left unattended in a vehicle. Even on a cool day, internal car temperatures can rapidly increase in a short time.
- Ensure that preventative treatments, especially those for Flea and Ticks, are up to date. If you live in a high tick area, be extra vigilant and check your pup daily for ticks, especially after nature walks. Ticks and fleas love warm weather.
- Ensure that the pup's sleeping quarters and crate are in well-ventilated areas, out of direct sunlight, and are in areas that will not overheat at different times of the day.
- For those who access waterways for cooling down on hot days, please read and adhere to our Water Safety Policy.

Heat Stroke

Heat Stroke can be a life-threatening condition that requires immediate veterinary attention. It may occur when a pup is:

- Left in a vehicles.
- Left outdoors in hot/humid conditions, especially without adequate shade.
- Exercised in hot/humid conditions.
- Suffering another medical condition that causes a rise in body temperature.

Signs of Heat Stroke include.

- Panting heavily.
- Drooling.
- Distress.
- Disorientated / unsteady on its feet.
- Gums changing colour to either blue/purple, or bright red.

What to do if you think your pup is suffering Heat Stroke

- Remove the pup from the environment causing the Heat Stroke.
- Begin to cool the pup by placing moist (NOT cold) towels over the pup's neck, armpits, and groin regions. A cool fan may also assist with the cooling process.
- Seek Veterinary advice.





HOT PAWS

Prevent burnt paw pads during summer months: **avoid hot surfaces**



Asphalt, metal, concrete and rocky surfaces can get *very* hot on a summer day: 10-30 degrees warmer than the ambient air.

-  Walk in a grassy area
-  Take walks during cooler mornings or evenings
-  Buy protective dog boots; styles are available in a variety of sizes and price points
-  Signs the ground is burning your pet's paws: repeated lifting of each paw. Test the surface by pressing your hand to the ground for 5 seconds; if it's too hot for you it's too hot for your pet's paws.
-  If you suspect your pet has heat-injured paws, visit your vet immediately

For more info on pet safety tips, visit
MyPetHealthZone.com



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