

HEAT AWARENESS DAY RAISES CONCERNS FOR PETS

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 24, 2013 . . . In recognition of National Heat Awareness Day, the veterinarians at Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center (CVESC) (www.ChicagoVeterinaryEmergency.com), located at 3123 N. Clybourn, Chicago, remind pet owners to take precautions with their animals during the warm summer days. Among the more than 11,000 dogs and cats that visit the facility's emergency room each year are dozens of pets that are suffering from the effects of the heat.

Dogs and cats do not tolerate heat as well as humans do. This is especially true for young, old and overweight cats and dogs. Brachycephalic breeds (dogs and cats with their snouts pushed in such as Pug dogs and Persian cats), are particularly prone to problems during periods of high heat and humidity.

Here's some tips to keep your pets safe during the summer months:

- Never leave your pet unattended in a car. The interior of a car heats up quickly and can lead to life-threatening situations for pets. Heatstroke can cause kidney failure, brain damage, and in severe cases, death.
- Limit exercise. Don't run your pet or otherwise exercise them heavily. Before embarking on a running program with your dog, make certain that it has had an opportunity to slowly work up to your speed and distance.
- If you take your dog for a long walk or a run, make certain it's during the cooler times of the day and carry plenty of cool water for your dog.
- On hot days, keep your pet primarily indoors, in an air-conditioned environment.
- Light-colored dogs, hairless dogs and dogs that have been shaved down may get sunburned. Use a dog-specific sunscreen to keep your pet safe from sunburn when it is outdoors.

- Remember that hot asphalt, concrete surfaces and hot sand can burn your pet's paw pads. Be careful to keep your pet off hot surfaces.

Pet owners who think their pet may be suffering from heatstroke should immediately move the animal to a cool place and begin cooling the pet with a cool damp towel, ice packs, and cool (not cold) water. They should then seek veterinary medical attention. Veterinarians can help cool your pet with intravenous fluids and other medical resources.

About Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center

Chicago's oldest and largest pet emergency facility, the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center provides advanced emergency, critical and specialty care for cats and dogs. Each year the center treats more than 11,000 cats and dogs in its emergency room and thousands more are cared for by veterinary specialists.

Staffed by highly-trained specialists and equipped with the latest technology, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is always open – 24-hours, every day of the year. In addition to emergency veterinarians and staff, the facility offers board-certified veterinarians who specialize in cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, diagnostic imaging, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology and surgery. This state-of-the-art facility includes ultrasound and MRI equipment, specialized surgical suites, a blood bank, specialized oxygen cages, heart monitors and more. Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center has been providing emergency care for cats and dogs since 1978.

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