

MEDIA ALERT
EXTREME HEAT CAN BE DEADLY FOR PETS

Emergency veterinarians warn of danger for pets and provide tips on keeping pets safe as temperatures set record levels.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHICAGO, ILL., JULY 5, 2012...Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center (CVESC) (www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com) reminds pet owners to take precautions for their pets during Chicago's extreme heat. Each year, CVESC treats more than 11,000 dogs and cats in their emergency room. Among them are dozens of animals suffering from heatstroke, a dangerous and sometimes deadly condition.

Extreme Heat & Pets:

Dogs and cats primarily cool themselves through panting. When the air temperature is high, panting becomes ineffective. The normal body temperature for dogs and cats is 100-102.5 degrees Fahrenheit (taken rectally). As the body temperature rises, the animal's primary organs (heart, kidneys, liver, etc.) may begin to shut down. The result can be kidney failure, brain damage, and in severe cases, death.

Signs of heatstroke:

Dogs and cats show similar signs of heatstroke. Symptoms of heatstroke include:

- Heavy panting
- Rapid heartbeat
- Vomiting (possibly with blood)
- Restlessness

- Listlessness
- Disorientation

Preventing heatstroke:

Fortunately, heat stroke in pets can often be prevented: Pet owners should take the following steps:

- Never leave a pet unattended in a vehicle where temperatures can quickly rise to deadly levels.
- Make certain your pet has access to fresh, clean water at all times.
- Keep your pet primarily indoors, in a cool environment.
- Limit exercise. Don't run your pet or otherwise exercise them heavily.
- If your dog is in the yard, help keep it cool with a children's wading pool in the shade.

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 and cool (not cold) water. They should then seek immediate veterinary medical attention. Veterinarians can help cool pets and provide needed medical support with intravenous fluids and other resources.

About Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center

Chicago's oldest and largest pet emergency center, the Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center (CVESC) treats more than 11,000 cats and dogs in their emergency room each year. Located at 3123 N. Clybourn, Chicago, Illinois, provides the most advanced emergency, critical and specialty care available to cats and dogs. Staffed by highly-trained veterinary specialists and equipped with the latest technology, Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center is always open – 24 hours each day, every day of the year. In addition to emergency veterinarians and staff, CVESC has board-certified veterinarians who specialize in cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology, radiology and surgery to treat pets with special medical or emergency needs. This state-of-the-art facility includes ultrasound and MRI equipment, specialized surgical suites, an intensive care ward, blood bank, an on-site

laboratory, specialized oxygen cages, heart monitors and more. CVESC has been providing care for Chicago-area pets when they need it most for more than 30 years.

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