

How to Prevent Heatstroke in Pets

During the hot, humid days of summer, pets are at risk for overheating and developing heatstroke. This condition can lead to organ failure and death but fortunately, it is preventable and can be treated successfully if caught early!



Avoid intense activities (jogging, running, etc.) on especially humid days or when the ambient temperature is greater than 75°F.



Limit time spent outside during the heat of the day and ensure that your dog has access to cool shade and clean, fresh water at all times.



Leave your dog at home while running errands. The inside of a car can heat up to 100°F in less than 10 minutes on an 80°F day, even with the windows cracked!



Limit walks and other exercise to the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning and late evening.

Signs of Heatstroke in Pets

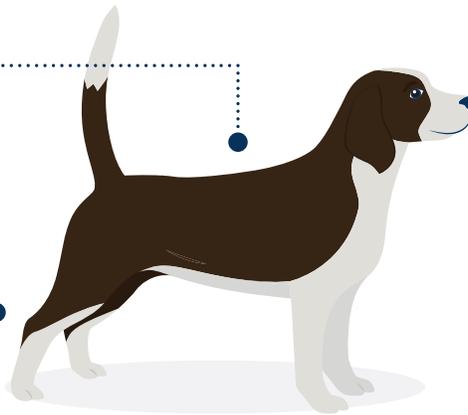
Unlike humans, dogs cannot sweat to cool themselves. When the weather is warm and humid, dogs dissipate body heat primarily by panting. Excessive panting may be one of the earliest signs that your dog is beginning to overheat! Signs of heatstroke include:

✓ Body

- Body Temperature Over 103.5°F
- Diarrhea
- Racing heart

✓ Legs

- Collapse
- Staggering or Incoordinated Gait



✓ Mouth

- Bright Red or Purple Gums
- Excessive Drooling
- Excessive Panting
- Vomiting

What To Do If Your Pet May Be Having a Heatstroke

If you are worried your pet may have a heatstroke, follow the steps below. If your pet continues to show signs of heatstroke despite taking these measures, **seek veterinary attention immediately!** Heat stroke is treatable if caught early, but it can be rapidly fatal if left untreated.

1

Stop any activity and move somewhere cool.

3

Place your dog in front of a fan or air conditioner.

2

Offer a small amount of cool water.

4

Use wet towels or a hose to soak your dog with tepid water – NOT ice water!