



HEAT SAFETY

Few things are as intense as the heat of summer in Houston. Glaring, blinding, suffocating, sweltering summer. Summers are brutal on our pets. Short-haired pets suffer from sunburn and long-haired pets are subject to heat stroke. Pets with short, puggy, little noses have serious problems in the heat and should always be kept in the air-conditioning.

All animals should have access to plenty of cool, clean water. Large, Texas-sized ceramic water bowls work best at keeping water cool. Add a milk-carton full of water that's been frozen overnight to make a giant-sized ice cube! For the all-over body cool-off, you can't beat those little \$9.00 plastic swimming pools.

Shade is a must! Dog houses are not shade. Dog houses are little ovens—no matter how many vents the top has. Likewise, enclosed garages become unbearably hot! If you're not comfortable in there, chances are your pet won't be either.

On hot, humid summer days the air-conditioning is a must. Even a dog who hasn't been trained to behave in the house should be crated indoors with the air-conditioning on super-hot days.

While cats seem to adore the heat, they also need plenty of fresh, cool, clean water to keep themselves at a safe temperature.

Don't take your pet to summer festivals and outdoor events. They are usually not set up to handle the special needs of animals and your pet can easily become overheated. NEVER leave your pet in a parked car—even if it's in the shade with the windows cracked.

Heat stroke is a serious, life-threatening condition that should be treated quickly. Animals with heat stroke can suffer permanent damage to the brain and other organs. You should seek veterinary treatment immediately. For more information on heat stroke, how to recognize it and what to do about it, visit www.peteducation.com. There you can find information on a variety of animal-related topics including heat-related problems.

Hot dogs are something you eat with mustard and relish, not a condition for your dog. Summer months can be fun for everyone. With a little planning they can be safe, too

For more information go to www.hcphtx.org/About/Organization/VPH or call 281-999-3191. To see pictures of pets available for adoption visit www.countypets.com