

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET IS TOO HOT

- 1) REMOVE the animal from the hot area immediately and take him somewhere cooler.
- 2) LOWER HIS BODY TEMPERATURE by wetting him thoroughly with cool water in a tub or with a water hose. For very small dogs, use lukewarm water.
- 3) **CAUTION:** Using very cold water can be counterproductive since cooling off too quickly can cause a dog's body temperature to drop and result in other life-threatening medical conditions.
- 4) Increase AIR MOVEMENT around him with a fan.
- 5) Offer your dog WATER; if he can't hold up his head, help him. The more water your dog is willing to take, the better it supports him cooling down.
- 6) Contact your VETERINARIAN for additional assistance.



SIGNS THAT YOUR PET IS SUFFERING FROM HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Heavy panting.
- Excessive thirst.
- Glazed eyes.
- Vomiting and bloody diarrhea.
- Bright or dark red tongue, gums.
- Staggering.
- Elevated body temperature (104°F and up).
- Weakness, collapse.

If your pet shows any of these symptoms, get him out of the heat immediately and contact your veterinarian. In the meantime, check out our steps for cooling off your pet.

Too Hot To Trot was created to raise awareness of the dangers of heat and dogs. Please follow TH2T on Facebook. To learn more about Barrio Dogs, go www.barriodogs.org.



IS IT TOO HOT TO TROT?



Tips for keeping your pets safe during the hot summer months

SOME BREEDS ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO HEAT EXHAUSTION

Short nosed or brachycephalic dogs have a harder time regulating their temperatures because of their short nasal passages. **BULLDOGS, PUGS** and **BOSTON TERRIERS** are more sensitive to rising temperatures.



LIGHT-COLORED DOGS may reflect more sunlight and heat but are more prone to sunburns and skin problems related to sun exposure. Fair-skinned dogs are just as susceptible to sun sensitivity and skin cancer as fair-skinned people.

Other animals that may need special attention during a heat wave include **GIANT BREED DOGS** as well as **ELDERLY, OBESE** or **DIABETIC** animals and dogs with **black or darker colored coats.**

DID YOU KNOW...

- Dogs don't have the luxury of overall cooling because their bodies have very few sweat glands, and most of those are in the foot pads. As a result, dogs are not efficient at keeping themselves cool and are more susceptible to overheating.
- Dogs sweat from their nose and from the pads at the bottom of their paws. They cool themselves by panting and drinking water.
- Most people think that a dog's tongue contains sweat glands but this isn't true. Dog's tongues and mouths are associated with salivary glands, although some cooling takes place when a panting dog moves air across saliva-moistened surfaces of the mouth cavity.



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Always check the **SIDEWALK OR ROAD** to make sure it's not too hot to walk your dog by placing the back of your palm on the surface for **FIVE SECONDS**. If it's too hot for you, it's definitely too hot for your dog.

Like humans, long term effects of sun exposure for pets may include **SKIN CANCERS** like squamous cell carcinoma and malignant melanoma.



DOGS, CATS and **HORSES** that spend a lot of time in the sun and have a light-colored coat or lack black pigment around the eyes, ears, and nose can get **SUNBURNED**.

To combat these particular dangers, use **SUNSCREEN** for fair-skinned and lightly-colored dogs or cover them up with a t-shirt. Most sunscreen that uses titanium dioxide as the active ingredient can be used or you can buy dog-specific sunscreen in most pet stores.