

# Hot Weather

Hot weather can be distressing for your whole family, especially the four-legged members. Whether pets are at home with you, relocated during high fire risk days or brought along on holidays, it is so important to consider and prepare for their health as well as your family's during heatwaves.

When your pet is unable to maintain their normal body temperature on a hot day, they will experience Heat Stress. On all hot days, especially days of Severe, Extreme or Code Red fire danger, keep your pets as cool as possible. They will be relying on you to help them manage the heat.

Heat Stress warning signs: excessive panting, Salivating, whining and agitation.

In cases of severe heat stress or heat stroke, pets may stop panting and vomit. If this occurs consult a vet immediately. It's important to keep your vet's contact details on hand.

## Tips for beating the heat

- Have fresh, cold water available at all times
- Ensure your pet has shade at all times or bring them inside into a cool room
- Wipe your pet down with a cool, damp towel or leave wet towels out for them to lie on
- Wet your dog with cool water several times throughout the day
- Consider buying a wading pool for your dog
- Place ice blocks in your pet's water bowl
- Place ice in a pillow case and place it near your pets bed
- Consider having your dog clipped if their coat is long and thick
- Never leave your pets in a vehicle on a hot day
- Avoid excessive exercise
- Take note of the surface your pet is walking on, if it is too hot for your bare feet it is too hot for their paws
- Think about your pets skin, pink noses and pale coats may need to have extra sun protection, pet friendly sunscreens are a must

**Follow these tips and you are bound to have an enjoyable and stress free summer!**

