

HEAT STROKE

An emergency that requires immediate owner intervention and medical treatment.



The following signs may indicate heat stroke in a cat

- Increased rectal temperature
- Anxiety
- Panting
- Dark red gums
- Dry mucus membranes (specifically the gums)
- Lying down and unwilling (or unable) to get up
- Collapse and/or loss of consciousness
- Dizziness or disorientation

Prevention

- NEVER leave your cat alone in the car on a warm day, regardless of whether the windows are open. This is especially true when cats are in carriers which restrict air flow. Even if the weather outside is not extremely hot, the inside of the car acts like an oven—temperatures can rise to dangerously high levels in a matter of minutes. Most people don't think about cats in cars but this is a big concern when transporting them.
- Keep fresh cool water available at all times.
- Provide shade and cool water to cats living outdoors.
- Do not expose cats with airway disease, heart disease or impaired breathing to prolonged heat.
- Certain cats are more sensitive to heat. This includes overweight cats and short-nosed breeds such as Persians and Himalayans.

ACTION STEPS

if you suspect heat stroke in your cat

- Remove your pet from the hot area.
- Call your veterinarian immediately.
- Lower your pet's temperature by wetting him thoroughly with room temperature water, then increase air movement around him with a fan.
- When the rectal temperature drops to 103.5°F, stop all cooling efforts.

CAUTION:

Using very cold water or cold water-soaked blankets can actually be counterproductive. Cooling too quickly and especially allowing your pet's body temperature to become too low can cause other life-threatening medical conditions.



HEAT STROKE

An emergency that requires immediate owner intervention and medical treatment.



The following signs may indicate heat stroke in a dog

- Increased rectal temperature
- Anxiety
- Vigorous panting
- Dark red gums
- Dry mucus membranes (specifically the gums)
- Lying down and unwilling (or unable) to get up
- Collapse and/or loss of consciousness
- Dizziness or disorientation

Prevention

- NEVER leave your dog alone in the car on a warm day, regardless of whether the windows are open. Even if the weather outside is not extremely hot, the inside of the car acts like an oven—temperatures can rise to dangerously high levels in a matter of minutes.
- Avoid vigorous exercise on warm days. When outside, opt for shady areas.
- Keep fresh cool water available at all times.
- Provide shade and cool water to dogs living in outdoor runs.
- Do not expose dogs with airway disease, heart disease or impaired breathing to prolonged heat.
- Certain types of dogs are more sensitive to heat—especially obese dogs and short-nosed breeds such as Pugs and Bulldogs. Use extreme caution when these dogs are exposed to heat.

ACTION STEPS

if you suspect heat stroke in your dog

- Remove your pet from the hot area.
- Call your veterinarian immediately.
- Lower your pet's temperature by wetting him thoroughly with room temperature water, then increase air movement around him with a fan.
- When the rectal temperature drops to 103.5°F, stop all cooling efforts.

CAUTION:

Using very cold water or cold water-soaked blankets can actually be counterproductive. Cooling too quickly and especially allowing your pet's body temperature to become too low can cause other life-threatening medical conditions.

