

# How to deal with hot summer days

## HOT dogs

The warm weather is here and it's time to enjoy the hot sunny days and long warm evenings. We're having fun and it's so easy to forget about our dogs. How do they cope with high temperature and humidity? Dogs do not perspire like human do. Dogs pant. When a dog is subject to high temperature and humidity and poor ventilation for even a short period of time, such as: in a car, in a shed, etc., rapid panting will cause loss of moisture and carbon dioxide.

**Heat stroke** is life threatening and can be fatal. Bring the temperature down ASAP and bring the dog to the vet clinic.

**Symptoms:** panting, staring, high fever (106° +), rapid heartbeat, vomiting, collapse.

**Treatment:** immerse in cold water, apply ice packs on the head and neck.

**Heat exhaustion** is usually caused by excessive exercise in intense heat.

**Symptoms:** panting, lethargy, vomiting & diarrhea.

**Treatment:** lower the temperature with cold water and get the dog to the vet clinic.

### Tips to help your HOT dog enjoy the summer:

- be aware that dogs can be more irritable in hot weather;
- have a shelter area in the shade;
- **always** have a bucket of fresh cool water;
- avoid strenuous exercise or play session;
- take a walk early in the morning or later in the evening, bring along some water for both you and the dog;
- if you need to crate the dog use a wire crate if possible;
- wet a towel with cold water and put it on the floor of a plastic crate;
- some dogs enjoy a dip in a child's wading pool;
- wet a towel with cold water and put it on the dog's back (chamois fabric works well);
- don't be alarmed if your dog eats less;
- puppies, older dogs and overweight dogs are more susceptible to heat stress;
- keep your dog well-groomed, shaving off all the hair is not recommended. The coat will protect your dog from getting a sunburn and it also acts as cooling insulation;
- remember that asphalt and concrete can get very hot and could burn your dog's pads;
- watch for fertilizers and pesticides on lawns.