



## Warm weather and your pet

### *Part II*

As promised in the last edition we're following up with some information on the warm weather and your pet; how to keep them safe & how you can make summer more enjoyable for all!

**Let's start with some hints and tips for the hot weather - some obvious, and some less so!**

- Walk your dog early in the morning or in the cool of the evening- (it really is nice early morning once you are in the habit; it's a great way to start the day!
- Avoid walking them on hot surfaces; remember you are wearing shoes! Use the back of your hand to test surfaces before walking your dog across them.
- Invest in a cooling mat or cooling neck band; I'm not a fan of the cooling jacket unless you are with your dog at all times. The cooling mats made for dogs are very safe. I have used cooling neckbands for myself and use one on my dog for walks and training.
- Invest in a wading pool such as a clam shell or dog pool. For puppies use under supervision and only partially fill the clam shell for puppies and dogs so it is safe. Beware if you have young children.
- Dogs will often cool off by dipping their feet in water; think about ways your dog may be able to cool off that way.
- Invest in a spray bottle to cool your dog off in the summer. Don't use a spray bottle for punishment; this is not a good way to correct your dog's behaviour. The spray bottle should be a pleasant experience.
- An Australian bush flower essence call Solaris ([ausflowers.com.au](http://ausflowers.com.au)) is very good for the effects of heat. Suitable to add to the water of humans and animals.
- Make up some iceblocks for your dogs wading pool, or water bowl.
- You may also make up a big iceblock in an ice-cream container; use some low salt broth or soak some bikkies in water then add a few soft treats and freeze. You can leave in the container or place outside on the grass for a treat.
- If you travel a lot with your dog invest in a cooling mat and also a portable fan cooler. You can get rechargeable fan at hardware stores (such as a ryobi fan that is chargeable with a drill battery). The fans have a safety cover on them to cover the blades.
- Bring your dog indoors as much as possible when it is hot. Give them a cool place to lay, some toys and something to chew on. Don't leave them locked out in the heat unless they have adequate facilities to keep cool.
- Allow your dog extra water during summer and have a few water stations around; make sure they stay shaded so the water doesn't get hot during the day.



**With the warmer weather well and truly here hyperthermia (heat stroke) is a danger to your pet.**

Please ensure your dog or cat is not accidentally locked inside a shed or hot car. Hot temperatures can kill or cause permanent damage very quickly. Also be aware that exercising when it's hot can lead to heatstroke especially if you have a dog which is running around or chasing a ball. The early signs of heatstroke are excessive panting and mild stress. This can then lead to difficulty breathing and collapse. You may also see excessive salivation & fits (however this can also be a sign of other things such as poisoning).

If your pet has been exposed to hot temperatures and is showing signs of distress you must remove them from the source of the heat immediately. You may then start to cool them by hosing them with running water or place wet towels on their body. Phone your vet for immediate advice. If you suspect hyperthermia do not try to cool them down too quickly or drastically without discussing with your vet first.

If you ever have an emergency with your pet make sure you phone the vet first; if they are not at the clinic you may waste valuable time if you just jump in the car & drive down. Also if the vet knows you are coming in with an urgent case they can prepare for your arrival.

**Wishing you all a safe and happy  
Christmas....**