

Water is the Life Saver!

Dogs need a constant supply of clean, fresh potable (drinkable) water.

Bowls can get knocked over and spilt; before you know it your dog is dehydrating and collapsed, so make sure there is plenty of clean, fresh water down at all times, for your dog.

You can dig a hole and put a 5 gallon bucket in half way to make sure it does not get knocked over or you can clip it to a fence. **Pets must have access to clean, fresh water at all times: It's the law.**

Summer Pet Safety Tips

- 🐾 Dogs need clean, fresh drinkable water available to them at all times.
- 🐾 Dogs need access to a well shaded area at all times of the day.
- 🐾 Never leave your dog in the car.
- 🐾 Watch out for fire ants, they can injure your dog.
- 🐾 Watch out for insects (i.e. flies) they will bite your dog's ears and nose.
- 🐾 Purchase flea, tick and heartworm medicine from a veterinarian.
- 🐾 Like us, dogs also get dehydrated and suffer from sunburn too.
- 🐾 Put dogs in a safe place during fireworks and thunderstorms. Every year many dogs disappear never to be found again. A microchip and a collar tag with your contact info can help them find their way back home!!!!

Sunburn and Dehydration

Like us, dogs can also suffer from sunburn. Light skinned dogs are particularly prone to sunburn due to a lack of pigmentation in their skin. For example white American Bulldogs and Bull Terriers.

Signs of dehydration in a dog include panting, drooling, a dry mouth, gums and nose, reduced skin elasticity, reduced capillary refill time and sunken eyes.

Dehydration and heat stroke can come on quickly and cause death. If you suspect your dog is dehydrated; remove your dog to a cool environment and offer water in small amounts to prevent vomiting and **immediately contact your veterinarian.**

Overheating/Heatstroke

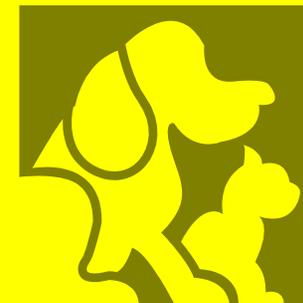
Dogs can quickly become too hot, unable to cool themselves down collapse and die. Heatstroke is caused by hot and humid environments.

Signs of heatstroke in a dog include a raised body temperature, heavy panting, drooling, vocalization, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat, restlessness, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, vomiting, bright red tongue, and collapse.

Heatstroke is a medical emergency, it can quickly be fatal. Remove your pet to a cool area and **immediately contact your veterinarian.**



HOT WEATHER GUIDE



Protect Your Dog From Summer Hazards

This pamphlet is courtesy of
The York County Animal Control
713 Justice Blvd.
York, SC 29745
Phone: 803.628.3190

Animal.control@yorkcountygov.com

Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 – 5:00
Saturday 9:30 – 12:30

How Dogs Regulate Their Body Temperature

Dogs need to maintain and regulate their body temperature within a safe and set range regardless of changes in the environmental temperatures. A healthy adult dog's temperature can vary from 100.5 °F to 101.0 °F (38 °C – 39.2 °C).

As the environment becomes warmer and/or more humid a dog will cool down using the respiratory system - mainly by panting and seeking a cool area.

A Panting Dog Is A Hot Dog: When your dog becomes hot your dog's heart and lungs will work harder as your dog breathes in and out quicker and pants to reduce body temperature by evaporation.

Owners of Short Nosed Dogs: Include breeds such as the British Bulldog, Boxer, French Bulldog, Pekingese, Pug as well as crossbreeds. These dogs need special care in warm weather as they can overheat quickly and die.

Air breathed in doesn't cool so well before it reaches the lungs. They rely on panting but have to work a lot harder at it as they are not, by design, very efficient. Less air is passing in due to shorter muzzle length and out due to the flat shape of their heads. On an average day, these types of dogs can quickly become overheated and die.

Coat Types and Condition

Dogs need to be kept well groomed to maintain their coat free of tangles and remove any dead undercoat; this helps the air to circulate, which allows the skin to breath, and helps your dog stay cool.

Dogs DIE in Hot Vehicles

Cars and other vehicles **quickly become ovens** in warm weather and pets inside can die. Some people leave their dog in a car when they are just "pop into a shop" or think it's alright because it's cloudy – this is a big mistake to make and one which could result in the death of your dog.

Leaving your window open or water for your dog in a vehicle is not going to stop your dog from overheating. Many dogs tragically suffer heatstroke and DIE in hot cars ever year. The inside of a car can reach 120°F in a matter of minutes, even in the shade.

Please never leave a dog in a vehicle on a warm or hot day, your pet may quickly die.

Shade and Ventilation

Dogs don't like being too hot anymore than we do! Remember that the sun moves round throughout the day, so an area can be shaded and then too hot. **Make sure that your dog has constant access to a well shaded area at all times during the day: It's the law.**

Dogs are far better suited to staying indoors when it's very hot outside.

Older Dogs

Older dogs, and dogs that are overweight, need extra care in the hot weather as they can overheat very quickly.

Be very cautious! Provide a shady, quiet resting space which is well ventilated. **Pets must have access to clean, fresh water at all times: It's the law.**

South Carolina Code of Laws

Chapter 1–Cruelty to Animals

Section 47-1-10 Definitions

(2) "**Sustenance**" means adequate food provided at suitable intervals of quantities of wholesome foodstuff suitable for the species and age, sufficient to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition to allow for proper growth and weight and adequate water provided with constant access to a supply of clean, fresh, and potable water provided in a suitable manner for the species.

(3) "**Shelter**" means shelter that reasonably may be expected to protect the animal from physical suffering or impairment of health due to exposure to the elements or adverse weather.

York County Ordinance 2013

General Provisions

§55.01 Definitions

Adequate Shelter: A shelter is an enclosed, weatherproof, structure that is manufactured or constructed expressly for housing a dog or cat that reasonably may be expected to protect the animal from physical suffering or impairment of health due to exposure to the elements or adverse weather (S.C. Code 47-1-10). It must be accessible to an animal and be of sufficient size and nature so as to provide the animal with adequate protection from the sun, heat, cold, or rain, and it must be elevated off the ground of sufficient height to keep water, snow, or ice from entering and allow the animal to remain comfortable in outside conditions. Examples of unacceptable shelter include, but are not limited to: underneath or inside motor vehicles, garbage cans, cardboard boxes, plastic or metal barrels, animal transport crates or carriers, under houses, structures, decks, outside steps or stoops.