



Des Moines County Humane Society
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BURLINGTON – As Southeast Iowa swelters under the heat of the dog days of summer, we need to remember our furry companions are as susceptible to the conditions as humans.

Even the healthiest pets can suffer from dehydration, heat stroke, and sunburn if overexposed to the heat. Heat stroke can be fatal if not treated promptly.

To enjoy summer safely with your pets, follow these simple precautions from The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). If you think your pet is suffering from any if these conditions, contact your veterinarian immediately.

- Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun. Be careful not to overexercise them, as animals love to play and may not stop, even if they are becoming overheated. Keep them indoors when it is extremely hot.
- Symptoms of overheating include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor, or collapse. They can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomit along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees. Animals with flat faces, such as Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke.
- Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. A parked car can become a furnace in no time, even with the windows open.
- Giving your dog a lightweight summer haircut helps prevent overheating. Brushing cats more often can prevent problems caused by excessive heat.
- When the temperature is very high, don't let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close to the ground, your pet's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.

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