Doggone Hot!
Summer Safety for Dogs

Summertime can be a fun time, but warm weather can also be tough on dogs. If it’s too hot outside for you to be comfortable, it’s likely too hot for a dog.

Beat the Heat

On hot days, especially with high humidity, skip exercise and opt for only potty breaks. Exercise your dog early or late in the day — but only if it’s not too warm.

Larger breeds, and dogs with thick or long coats can be more susceptible to the negative health effects of heat.

Medium-sized dog breeds, characterized by moderate body size and fur coats of varying lengths, have increased vulnerability to heat-related issues particularly during peak daytime temperatures. Light-colored dogs with shorter fur are especially prone to sunburn and heat absorption.

Dogs with short snouts — bulldogs, pugs, boxers, etc. — have an especially hard time in the heat.

Too Hot for a Walk? Take the 5-Second Test
Before walking your dog, press your palm flat against the sidewalk for 5 seconds. If it’s too hot for your hand, it’s too hot for your dog’s paws.

Lead a Dog to Water
Make sure your dog has plenty of water. Whether returning from the great outdoors or just hanging out on a summer day, fresh water is key to your pup’s health.

Signs of Heatstroke
- Heavy panting, difficulty breathing
- Increased drooling
- Stumbling or dizziness
- Lethargy or weakness
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Small amounts of urine or no urine
- Blood in bowel movement or stool or black, tarry stools
- Extreme discoloration of gums or tongue

Think you see any of these symptoms? Seek immediate veterinary care.